CULINARY CRUSADE

CHEF JAMIE OLIVER IS TACKLING OBESITY (AGAIN) WITH HIS LATEST EFFORT: FOOD REVOLUTION DAY PAGE 20

VANCOUVER metro®

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

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A woman takes part in a zombie walk in Sydney, Australia, in February. BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

B.C. preps for night of living dead

Zombie week.

Province takes novel approach to emergency preparedness

British Columbia is susceptible to all kinds of natural and unnatural disasters. The province is constantly trying to get citizens to prepare for earthquakes, flooding, forest fires and more.

Now you can add zombie apocalypse to the list.

The provincial government has launched Zombie Preparedness Week, using the tongue-in-cheek horror-movie shtick as a way to get a younger, pop-culture-obsessed crowd thinking about real-world emergency preparedness.

The Emergency Info BC website offers tips on how to survive a zombie attack. Posts with titles like "What's For Dinner? Hopefully Not My Brain" teach readers what to put in an emergency kit, how to plan evacuation routes, how to access emergency-broadcast information and how to make sure they have enough supplies to survive on their own.

Like the undead, Emergency Management B.C. spokesperson Julianne McCaffrey says the campaign has been relentless since its launch. By Tuesday afternoon, 61,000 people had laid eyes on Zombie Preparedness Week material through Twitter alone.

In the unlikely event a zombie apocalypse doesn't happen, the tips and information on the website still apply to disasters across the board.

"It's going viral," McCaffrey confirmed. "The idea was to take the same message we use for earthquakes, for fires and for flood and give it a different twist. Is it funny? I think so. But emergency preparedness is dead serious."

Plus, readers will have the added benefit of knowing exactly what to do during a real zombie outbreak, right?

"Well, I have my kids ready," McCaffrey chuckled.

For more information, visit emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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Air + 4 Nights 4-Star — from $419 + taxes & fees $140
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Air + 7 Nights — from $779 + taxes & fees $137
INCLUDES accom in beachfront resort in North Myrtle Beach.

New York City
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $795 + taxes & fees $139
INCLUDES Manhattan accom. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $65 per night. **ADD** Empire State Building entry from $21.

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Mexican Riviera
7-Night Cruise — from USD $369 + taxes & fees USD $56
CRUISE roundtrip Los Angeles and visit Cabo San Lucas (overnight) and Puerto Vallarta. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $19 per night.

Alaska 7-Night Cruise — from USD $499 + taxes & fees USD $150
CRUISE Vancouver to Seward and visit Inside Passage (cruising), Ketchikan, Ict Strait, Juneau, Skagway and Hubbard Glacier (cruising). **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $36 per night.

South Pacific
8-Night Cruise — from USD $675 + taxes & fees USD $103
CRUISE roundtrip Sydney and visit Isle of Pines, Lifou Isle and Noumea. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $44 per night.

Vacations

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Toronto
Air + 4 Nights 4-Star — from $469 + taxes & fees $228
UPGRADE to 5-star accom from $33 per night. **ADD** CN Tower entry from $30.

Thailand Air + 8 Nights — from $1344 + taxes & fees $417
INCLUDES Koh Samui accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $9 per night. **ADD** elephant trekking tour from $54.

Cape Town Air + 8 Nights — from $1539 + taxes & fees $687
UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $18 per night. **ADD** great white shark cage diving from $234.

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Court indictment

Charges laid in Tamil-migrant smuggling

Two people have been charged with helping to smuggle a ship full of Tamil migrants into Canada. Lesly Jana Emmanuel and Kunarobinson Christhurajah are accused of organizing and aiding in the operation that brought 492 Tamils by boat to British Columbia's coast.

The rusty MV Sun Sea landed off Victoria in August 2010 with the refugee claimants on board.

The court indictment against the pair says they planned their crimes between August 2009 and August 2010 in Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Thailand.

The Canadian government has launched an extradition request for a third man charged with similar offences and arrested in France.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Identification

Three bodies recovered from plane-crash site

The bodies of three people killed in a plane crash near Kelowna have been recovered from the site so their identities can be confirmed.

Coroner Barb McLintock says the work will be done at Vancouver General Hospital. The de Havilland Beaver crashed and burst into flames Sunday off Highway 97C near Brenda Mines just minutes after takeoff from Okanagan Lake.

Motorists saw the aircraft crash while on flight from the Okanagan to its home base in Pitt Meadows, east of Vancouver.

A team from the Transportation Safety Board had to wait for the removal of the bodies before it could go in and begin to collect evidence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local game developer Dan Archibald didn't expect that his first commercial game, Pandemic 2.5, would be a big success, but it's currently the third most popular game on the Apple App Store, trailing only Angry Birds in Space and Draw Something. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Mobile game spreads just like a pandemic

Speedy success. More than 200,000 people have downloaded Pandemic 2.5

MATT KIELTYKA
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Like the viruses that plague his game's world, Richmond developer Dan Archibald is infecting the mobile world with Pandemic.

Released two weeks ago on the Apple app store for iPhone and iPad, Pandemic 2.5 is currently the third most popular game on the platform — behind only pop culture heavyweights Angry Birds in Space and Draw Something.

As of Tuesday, more than 200,000 people around the world had downloaded Archibald's global disease simulator — inspired by classic games he'd play as a kid, like SimCity 2000.

It has gone No. 1 in the United Kingdom and Finland (home of Angry Birds developers Rovio Mobile Ltd.).

Not bad for the first commercial game created almost exclusively by the 23-year-old BCIT graduate, the one-man development team behind Dark Realm Studios (a friend created the music for the game and the 3D graphics for the game's map were contracted out).

"I'm definitely proud. It has surpassed all my expectations," said Archibald. "When I was working on the game, I'd daydream and think it would be amazing if the game hit 100,000 downloads. It's been two weeks and has already reached far larger and wider than I could have imagined."

Pandemic 2.5 (based on a free web game Archibald developed in 2005) allows players to design their own virus and watch it spread across the world. Each region has its own economy, interests and governments that affect their response to the pandemic, which can include quarantining infected areas and shutting down international airports.

Players track the disease's progress through a world map and in-game news flashes.

It's a global simulation game with a dark twist.

Despite the runaway success of the game, Archibald is keeping his feet planted on the ground.

"I don't think I'm on the stage quite yet, but it's definitely gotten me up the first step to the stage," he said. "It will make my next game easier. Not just because I'm better-known now, but with the money coming in I can actually afford marketing."

Pandemic's success is a classic example of the impact digital distribution is having on a video-game industry that used to rely solely on big-studio retail games whose budgets rival blockbuster films.

"It really opens up the market to small companies, and even individuals who just want to make a game," he said. "You can be creative and try things you wouldn't see from a big studio."

That creative freedom is key to Archibald, whose dream is to release a few more hits before opening a physical development studio with a small staff.

Follow Matt Kieltyka on Twitter @Mkieltyka

1 NEWS

On the web

Tween blasts banks

The latest tirade against Canada's banking system isn't coming from a leading economist, but from a 12-year-old girl. Posted by her father, Cambridge, Ont.'s Victoria Grant's lectures have been making the web rounds and making headlines. Watch the pint-sized pundit at metronews.ca

Mobile news

Barack Obama is holding his own when it comes to pop culture. The U.S. president passed The View's pop quiz, proving he's keeping up with the Kardashians and knows his superheroes. Scan the code to see if he passed the Fifty Shades of Grey test.

Justice for the men we've lost: Families

Mushroom-farm accident. Inquiry wraps up, with jurors set to begin deliberations on Wednesday

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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The families of the victims in the 2008 mushroom-farm accident that killed three men and disabled two others say they fear for their future after losing the men in their lives.

Tracey Phan, whose father, Michael Phan, was left with severe brain damage, said her mother has had trouble finding a job because she's busy taking care of her and her younger sister, her grandmother and her dad. She said her mom, Phuong Le, visits her husband every day in an extended-care centre.

"Every single day and night at 11:11, right on the dot, I wish my dad would just sit back up and be the same man he was before," Phan told reporters later. "Thousands of wishes later, he's not cured.… I lost the one person I love the most besides for my mom and sister."

Han Pham's widow, Nga Trieu, who has three of five kids still living with her, told a coroner's inquest that she is worried about the well-being of her children.

"I have a 16-year-old son who is autistic and has diabetes," Trieu said through a translator as she wiped away her tears. "If something would happen to me, who would take care of them?"

Ut Tran's widow, Hong Dang, described her husband as an honest and even-tempered man, and said she finds it hard to breathe whenever she's reminded of the tragic incident.

Jim Sinclair, president of the B.C. Federation of Labour, testified earlier on Tuesday and called for mandatory safety training for farm workers and their employers. He recommended employers send a form every year to WorkSafeBC that declares they have complied with health and safety regulations. He also wants to see more WorkSafeBC inspectors for farms and says Crown lawyers should proceed with charges when they are warranted to make sure employers are held accountable for infractions.

Otherwise, he said, companies will end up filing for bankruptcy and walk away without paying the fines imposed on them.

The five-member jury begin deliberations on Wednesday.

Angela Phan, 8, holds a photo of her parents on Tuesday after the final day of testimony at a coroner's inquest into the deaths of three Langley mushroom-farm workers in 2008. Her dad, Michael Phan, suffered severe brain damage after inhaling toxic fumes. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Get ready to socialize with digital graffiti and hot-tub seating

The Vancouver Public Space Network is bringing mobile digital projections to city neighbourhoods this summer. CONTRIBUTED/CITY OF VANCOUVER

The folks who brought you last year's PICNURBIA urban beach on Robson Street are expanding their social sites to include mobile nighttime digital graffiti and hot-tub-style seating this summer.

The city's VIVA Vancouver program has come up with several ways to "transform road spaces into people places," giving people extra space to walk, bike, skate, sit, and hang out and meet new people.

The Vancouver Public Space Network (VSPN) is partnering with the program to bring mobile digital projections to city neighbourhoods on a bike cart on Saturday after dark, a concept imported from Europe.

"It's just an opportunity to do something that's kind of exciting after dark in the city and to bring people together," said Josh Paterson of the VSPN. "There's no big message other than just enjoying the city."

The projection system has a camera that sees where a laser is pointed at a building and simultaneously projects light at that spot, with neon-tastic results.

"It'll be especially fun for young people, but it's pretty neat for people of all ages to be able to try out their artistic skills on such a large canvas in their neighbourhood," Paterson said.

Meanwhile, in the South Hill area on Fraser Street, some landscape architects have come up with a neat design for hot-tub-style community seating.

"One of the reasons we wanted to participate in this program is that in the (South Hill commercial area) there is no public space," said Aila Karpio, executive director of the South Hill Business Association. "We have no parks, and we don't have indoor or outdoor public spaces, really, other than the library and two schools, so we are in need of a place where people can gather."

Other VIVA projects include an artists' market in a laneway in Mount Pleasant and a pedestrian-only summertime plaza on Robson Street.

Many details, dates and budgets for these projects are still being worked out. For links, go to metronews.ca.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Back to bargaining

Civil servants vote to strike over wages

Members of B.C.'s biggest public-sector union have voted 82 per cent in favour of a strike, but no immediate walkouts are planned.

Darryl Walker, president of the 25,000-member B.C. Government and Service Employees Union, said Tuesday that union negotiators will take the mandate back to the bargaining table next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to seek a better wage offer.

"Our members haven't had a pay raise since April 1, 2009," he said. "We agreed to, and have done our part to, help the economy recover over that two- or three-year period but frankly are finding ourselves falling behind."

The union rejected a three per cent increase over two years.

Walker said the union suggested the province expand Sunday liquor-store openings and sheriff services to include police traffic work — which could generate up to $350 million in extra revenue — but the government didn't agree.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing-women inquiry

Police had reason to raid Pickton farm in 1999: Lawyer

The RCMP had several good reasons to search serial killer Robert Pickton's farm more than two years before his arrest, says a lawyer representing the families of his victims.

Cameron Ward told a public inquiry the force had already received tips about cockfighting and pit-bull fighting on Pickton's property and were well aware he was running an illegal booze operation frequented by members of the Hells Angels.

Ward says police even received evidence Pickton had illegal firearms. A tipster named Ross Caldwell, who told police in 1999 that Pickton may have killed a sex worker at his farm, recalled seeing guns on the property. Firearms were the subject of the search warrant that eventually brought police onto the Pickton farm.

The RCMP has faced criticism that it failed to take adequate steps to pursue Pickton, but Earl Moulton, a former inspector, insists there was absolutely nothing his officers could have done differently.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drinking water

Our water's great, but data collection is not: B.C. health officer

B.C.'s drinking water is among the best in the world but collecting data on it is still a challenge, the deputy provincial health officer says.

Dr. Eric Young says an information system that integrates data from all water-system suppliers would allow analysis if there's any problem.

He says various attempts to find such a system have been unsuccessful and it would have to be accomplished in small steps.

Young made the comments while releasing a drinking-water report that covers various provincial programs from 2007 to 2009.

During that time, there were no outbreaks of sickness caused by waterborne illness related to drinking water.

But the number of boil-water advisories rose to 604 in March 2009, from 480 in 2006, reflecting what Young says is an increased emphasis on assessing small systems and ensuring appropriate advisories are issued.

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HOCKEY MOM

The captain of the Canadian women's hockey team, and mom to 12-year-old Noah, talks to Metro about juggling hockey and motherhood and helping Walmart Canada choose the mom of the year

HAYLEY WICKENHEISER

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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How do you balance playing hockey and being a mom?
I have a lot of help from my mom, who helps me a lot with my son and also just time management. You really have to have a good handle on what you're doing and making it all work.

What does your adoptive son Noah think about having a mom who's regarded as the best female hockey player in the world?
I don't think he really cares too much about it. I think he thinks it's kind of cool because he gets to go to Olympic Games and stuff like that, but for the most part I'm not really that to him. I'm more just mom, and at the end of the day he just wants to talk to me about what's interesting in his life, watching him swimming or having him with me when I travel.

The hardest job

"They say that 84 per cent of Canadians polled said that being a mom was the hardest job there is. I would agree with that."

What's your advice for working moms?
Be creative in how you set up the way you manage your time and not to be afraid to ask for help if you need it. Just prioritize what's important and be protective of your time. Learn how to say no to things that are infringing on your priorities.

How does Walmart Canada's Mom of the Year Award work?
It's an award to honour moms across the country, and you can nominate your mom to be a recipient of this. The top eight finalists will be chosen and seven of them are going to receive $10,000 for themselves and $10,000 to give to charity. The winning mom is going to receive $10,000 plus $100,000 to donate to a charity of her choice.

Why did you choose to be on the selection panel and be a part of this initiative?
There are millions of moms in Canada, and they say that 84 per cent of Canadians polled said that being a mom was the hardest job there is. I would agree with that. I think it is important for everyday moms to be appreciated and for society in general to recognize just how hard it is to be a mom.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

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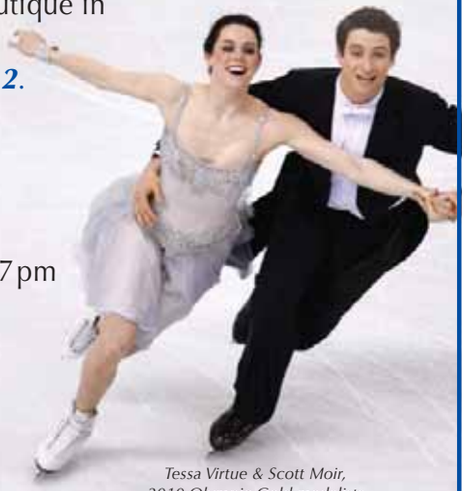

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State of emergency. Ottawa offers help to suicide-beset Vancouver Island First Nation

Two federal ministers have written to Vancouver Island's Cowichan Tribes First Nation, pledging social and emotional help throughout a locally declared state of emergency over a disturbing spike in suicides and attempted suicides.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan offered resources to the struggling First Nation in a letter to Chief Harvey Alphonse on Tuesday, promising "our top priority is to work with your health team to identify resources to help respond as quickly as possible."

"Health Canada can assist in making mental-health professionals available to help in situations such as this," the letter said, adding a top B.C. bureaucrat will be on hand to help in any way possible.

Alphonse asked for help Monday from the federal and provincial governments after four suicides involving aboriginal males this year.

He said a pervasive sense of hopelessness that hangs over much of the Cowichan nation has also led to 52 suicide alerts in his east-coast Vancouver Island community this year.

Alphonse said he wanted Duncan to visit Cowichan to view first-hand the threats to his community's primary asset, the youth.

B.C.'s Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Mary Polak said the province has also been in contact with Cowichan Tribes with an offer of help. Polak said one of her deputy ministers is meeting Friday with Alphonse and some members of his council and staff.

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‘Barrage’ of tips comes in to grieving dad offering reward

Jeff Buziak holds a photo of his daughter Lindsay. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Jeff Buziak’s phone has been ringing off the hook, but he admits he’s likely no closer to finding his daughter’s killer.

The Calgary father has offered up as much as $500,000 for tips leading to a conviction in the 2008 killing of his daughter, Lindsay Buziak, in Saanich.

After speaking with Metro last week, Jeff Buziak was also interviewed by another Calgary print publication and multiple television news stations. He had previously discussed a possible reward with reporters in B.C. as well.

“When we offer a program like this, we certainly get a barrage of people who have theories,” Buziak said. “We have people offering to help.... That’s not really what we’re after.

“We haven’t got the nugget (of key information) at this time.”

Buziak has long been critical of efforts by Saanich police in relation to the investigation. The police force, in turn, has cautioned against offering rewards amid fears the money could disrupt the integrity of what it claims is an ongoing investigation.

Buziak said he’s received four to 10 calls each day since going public with the reward. He admits some may just be in it for the money.

“It does require a certain amount of my time to see where some of these people are going,” he said. “Is it an armchair detective? Somebody who just wants the information or is it somebody that actually has some information?”

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

For more local news visit metronews.ca/vancouver

Friends fighting for hang-gliding victim’s legacy to live on

Lenami Godinez Avila. $11K has been donated to scholarship in her name at Simon Fraser University

KATIE TURNER
Metro in Calgary

Friends and family of a woman who fell to her death during a hang-gliding accident are working to preserve her memory and provide her boyfriend a ray of hope.

In the two weeks since Lenami Godinez Avila, 27, died in Agassiz, $11,000 has been donated to a scholarship in her name at Simon Fraser University. Her loved ones are still hoping for more.

Katherine Louman-Gardiner, a close friend of Godinez Avila’s boyfriend, said the goal is to raise $20,000 for the scholarship so that it becomes a self-sustaining endowment fund.

“My motivation is helping (her boyfriend) through this,” said Louman-Gardiner, asking that Godinez Avila’s boyfriend, who is originally from the Calgary area, to remain unnamed.

“I want the conversation to be about Lenami’s life and not her death.”

The scholarship will be directed at international students coming to Canada with a passion for the environment, much like Godinez Avila, who hailed from Mexico.

Godinez Avila’s boyfriend, who was there when she fell, is struggling with the loss after three years together, said his younger sister, who also asked to remain unnamed.

“The scholarship isn’t her, but it is her — it’s her spirit. The moment people stop saying her name, that’s when she dies,” she said. “She died so happy and so in love and my brother is going to die in love as well, because he’s going to love her until the day he dies.”

Donations to the scholarship can be made through rememberinglena.com.

Lenami Godinez Avila’s loved ones are hoping a lasting scholarship in her name will carry on her legacy. LINKEDIN.COM

Exploitation

Former youth pastor faces sex-crime charge

A former church youth pastor in Colwood, near Victoria, is facing a sex charge involving a teenaged girl.

Ira Parmenter is accused of sexual exploitation during a relationship he’s alleged to have had with the girl beginning when she was 16. The RCMP say they began an investigation last month when the girl’s mother claimed her daughter had been involved in an inappropriate sexual relationship.

Parmenter was a youth pastor at the Colwood Pentecostal Church from 2003 to 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protest

First Nations dispute goes to top-court judge

A dispute that has divided a northern B.C. First Nation for more than five months is now in the hands of a B.C. Supreme Court judge.

The Gitxsan Treaty Society has asked the judge to order the arrest of dissident band members who have blockaded the society’s offices in Hazelton since December, despite a court order to remove the protest.

Protesters boarded up the society’s office when the society announced support for the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway oil pipeline. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wildfires

B.C. firefighters head to Manitoba

Several wildfires are already blazing in Manitoba, and B.C. is sending a 41-person contingent to help their exhausted Manitoba colleagues.

Forest Ministry officials say the two administrators and 13 three-person initial-attack crews can be recalled on short notice if conditions heat up in B.C.

A wildfire broke out Tuesday in northeastern B.C, east of Tumbler Ridge, and now covers more than half a square kilometre, but is not believed to be threatening any homes or properties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rafferty is a 'monster,' judge says at sentencing

25 years in prison. Condemns killer for snuffing out young life in order to gratify his 'twisted and deviant desire'

Michael Rafferty maintained his innocence Tuesday in the brutal abduction, rape and killing of Victoria Stafford as the judge presiding over the case labelled him a "monster."

Rafferty apologized to the eight-year-old girl's family in court after hearing the devastating effects of her death three years ago, but staunchly denied carrying out the crimes he was convicted of Friday.

"I am guilty of many crimes and there are a lot of things I am very, very ashamed of, but these three counts I still stand firmly behind not guilty," he said.

At the same time, he admitted to being "very definitely part of why Victoria's not here today," and offered to privately reveal "all the pieces of the puzzle" to Tori's mother. It was the first time Rafferty has spoken in his own defence, he did not take the stand during the trial.

Rafferty was formally sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years. He was also sentenced to 10 years to be served concurrently for sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

Superior Court Justice Thomas Heeney condemned Rafferty for snuffing out the life of a beautiful and innocent girl. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A loss that's forever

"My sister was the only person I had to talk to. Someone that felt what I felt, cried when I cried.... Now I feel alone."
Daryn Stafford, brother of Victoria

Daryn Stafford, brother of Victoria, leaves court with family members on Tuesday. GEOFF ROBINS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skateboarder dies

Cabbie charged

Police have laid a murder charge after a skateboarder died following a collision involving a taxi in downtown Toronto.

The victim is Ralph Bissonnette, 28. Adib Ibrahim, 43, is charged with second-degree murder.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cops found chemicals

Chemicals 'plausible' for rocketry hobby: Judge

G20 activist, Byron Sonne, 39, has been acquitted on all charges, after a judge said the Crown failed to prove he would make bombs.

The self-described security geek said the chemicals were for his rocketry hobby, an explanation that Ontario Superior Court Justice Nancy Spies said was plausible. Sonne also maintained he was trying to expose gaps in the $1-billion summit's security. THE CANADIAN PRESS

True love story: Aerobatic pilot marries prince

Jordan's Princess Basmah al Hussein, formerly Basmah Hasan of Stratford, Ont., and husband Prince Hamzah Al Hussein. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A barnstorming Stratford, Ont., woman with a daredevil streak and a passion for adventure has quietly become a member of Jordan's royal family.

Aerobatic pilot Basmah Hasan became Princess Basmah in January after she wed Prince Hamzah of Jordan's Hashemite royal family.

Hamzah is the son of the late King Hussein and his American-born wife, Queen Noor, and is a senior officer in Jordan's forces. He is the half-brother of the current King. The couple met while 33-year-old Hasan was working as the chief pilot at the Royal Aero Sports Club of Jordan last year.

She had blazed a trail in the skies over the Arab world by becoming the first certified aerobatic pilot and a certified glider pilot in the country.

The prince, 32, was a fixed-wing pilot trained at Britain's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

"She fell in love with this man, madly in love with him, they're very much in love," says sister Yasmen Hasan of Ottawa, the family's spokesperson.

"You can just see it. When you're in the room with them it's electric. She happened to fall in love with a man who's a prince, but it's the man she's with, that's who she's dedicated her life to, and him to her, and he just happened to have that title and come from that family."

Hasan moved to Jordan in 2004, leaving her mathematics studies at the University of Western Ontario to pursue a dream of becoming a pilot.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Humble and intelligent':

"She's a totally adventurous person, but she's the most humble, graceful, gracious, intelligent person you're ever going to meet. She fits perfectly with the (royal) family," says Princess Basmah's sister Yasmen, of Ottawa.

Her parents Mike and Halloul are from affluent Jordanian families. The four children were born here.

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U.S. forces

Female soldiers set for combat

Female soldiers this week are moving into new jobs in once all-male units as the U.S. Army ends barriers to keep them away from battle. The policy change is being tested in nine brigades.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murder trial

Israeli accused of stabbing spree

Prosecutors in Michigan have rested their case in the first murder trial for an Israeli immigrant accused of a deadly stabbing spree two years ago.

Fourteen people were stabbed in and around Flint in the summer of 2010, and five died.

Elias Abuelazam is charged with three murders and six attempted murders.

One survivor, Bill Fisher, testified Tuesday how he was stabbed by a motorist who had asked him for help. Fisher pulled up his shirt to show jurors his stab wound and identified Abuelazam as his attacker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Vaillancourt was eventually allowed back into debate.

JIM COLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nazi chant

Republican says sorry for 'Sieg Heil'

A New Hampshire lawmaker, Steve Vaillancourt, has apologized for shouting the Nazi salute "Sieg Heil!" during legislative debate. He was removed from the House Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Identity theft

Twenty years of deception?

A Newark Liberty airport security supervisor pleaded not guilty Tuesday to identity theft. His alleged offences took place over 20 years. Identity theft carries a maximum 10 years jail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Massacre to shine light on Syria?

Now UN team may tell world. Observers nearby as troops fire on funeral mourners, 20 feared dead

A United Nations convoy of observers was blasted by a roadside bomb in Syria on Tuesday.

It happened just minutes after regime forces gunned down mourners at a funeral procession nearby, witnesses said. Twenty people may have been killed.

It was not clear how close the observers were to the funeral shootings. But if confirmed, a regime attack on civilians directly in front of the observers could put pressure on them to describe publicly what they are seeing in Syria. They report back to the UN but have not publicized their findings.

A video of the bomb attack was posted online by activists. There were no injuries. "The front of a UN car took a direct hit," said activist Fadi al-Yassin.

"Everyone ran in panic but the observers stayed in the car. People tried to talk to them but they wouldn't even open their windows."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Burst of violence

"This is a real massacre and it took place in the presence of UN observers."

Rami Abdul-Rahman, human rights official.

Quebec protests kick into high gear

A student protester puts the boot in during a pitched battle with police Tuesday at a junior college north of Montreal in the provincial furor over tuition hikes. Police fired chemical irritants at about 100 protesters who were blocking students from entering the college. In Montreal, 19 people were arrested Tuesday after access was blocked to the Jacques Cartier Bridge, a key commuter link. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Can deadly pufferfish be a human tooth fairy?

Human teeth can be engineered to regenerate, thanks to one of the world's most poisonous fish.

British scientists have been studying the pufferfish beak and have found it is uniquely resilient, generating new teeth every two weeks for the animal's lifetime.

They believe the beak provides a model for creating a system of continuous tooth replacement in humans.

"The pufferfish beak is completely unique," project leader Dr. Gareth Fraser of the University of Sheffield told Metro.

"The main thing is we can use it to identify the gene network for tooth replacement.

"We can see how nature makes new teeth and about the genes that govern that process."

Stem cells in the jaw control tooth growth, and they stop producing in humans after the adult set.

KIERON MONKS/METRO WORLD NEWS

Lethal

The pufferfish is believed to be one of the most deadly fish in the world.

- **Danger.** Certain pufferfish organs, such as the liver, are highly toxic to most animals when eaten.
- **Skill.** The meat is a delicacy in Japan, Korea and China when prepared by chefs who know what parts are safe to eat.

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Busy first day for new French president

France. Hollande is 90 minutes late for meeting with German chancellor after plane is struck by lightning

Socialist Francois Hollande took over as France's president Tuesday and jetted off to Berlin hours later for talks on Europe's debt crisis — only to have his plane struck by lightning. No one was hurt.

It was a startling beginning for a man who promised to be a more "normal" president and less flashy than his predecessor, Nicolas Sarkozy, who was ousted by voters after one term for his handling of a stagnant economy plagued by joblessness.

After a succession of ceremonial inauguration events, Hollande took off in a Falcon 7X aircraft for Berlin. The plane was hit by lightning shortly afterward, and returned to the Villacoublay air base outside Paris as a precaution for inspection, Defence Ministry spokesman Gerard Gachet said.

Defence officials say the president was transferred to another aircraft, a Falcon 900, and left shortly thereafter.

Hollande was following a postwar custom for new French leaders to reach out to their German counterparts to solidify European unity. Right before leaving for Berlin, Hollande named a moderate, German-friendly member of his Socialist party, Jean-Marc Ayrault, as his prime minster.

The new French president and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are in different camps when it comes to solving Europe's debt crisis. Hollande has pushed back against a European budget-cutting pact championed by Merkel and Sarkozy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New French President Francois Hollande shakes hands with supporters after paying homage to physicist Marie Curie at the Curie Institute in Paris on Tuesday. REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andre to Andrea. Jail guard keeps chugging along after sex change

Toronto Don Jail guard Andrea Roussel loves to tell the story about when a former inmate tried to pay her a major compliment.

"You've got balls," he said.

"Ya, and I got rid of them," Roussel replied.

The prisoner meant his words figuratively but Roussel was being literal. She's the only jail guard in the history of the province of Ontario — and perhaps the country — to have a sex change and continue on the job.

She started the job two decades ago as Andre Roussel, a married father of two and former elite wrestler and football lineman.

For the past two and a half years, since gender-reassignment surgery in Montreal, Roussel has continued her work guarding prisoners at the Don.

Andrea Roussel TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"The incidents of verbal assaults are minimal," she said. "The inmates know if they say one word, they know they're going to be locked up immediately for the rest of the day." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Games gondolas in focus

A view of Transport for London's gondola-lift cable-car link across the River Thames in London on Tuesday. The project comprises a one-kilometre cable-car line that crosses the river from the Greenwich Peninsula to the Royal Docks, linking two important Olympic sites. Up to 34 gondolas, each carrying a maximum of 10 passengers, will run across the river when the project is ready in time for the 2012 Olympics. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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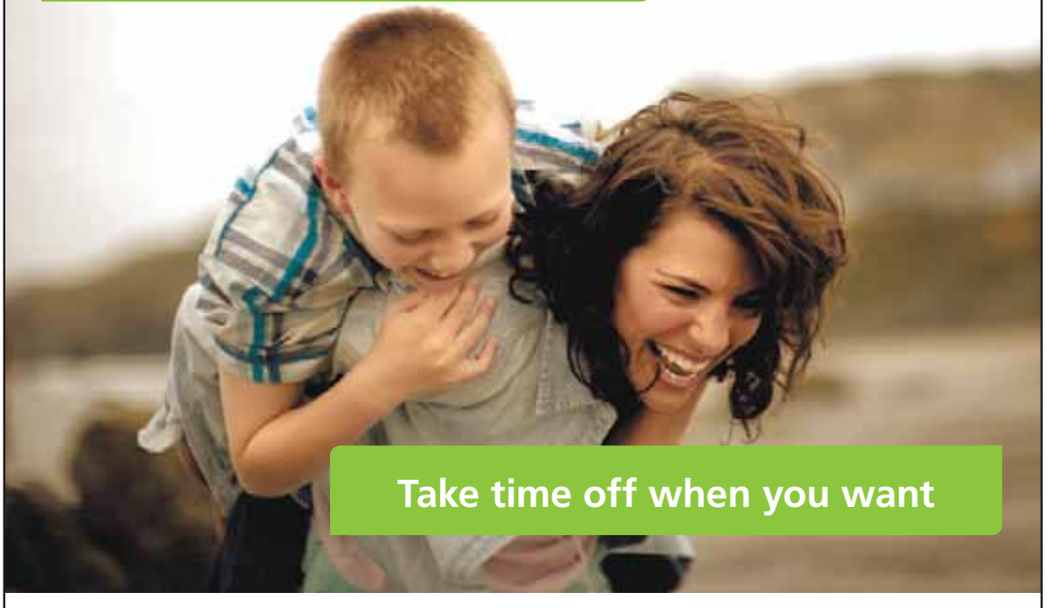

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CIBC, Rogers unite to make credit cards out of BlackBerries

Future wave? Research released by Google suggests Canadians are lukewarm on the idea

A BlackBerry smartphone
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Within months, Canadian shoppers could have the option of paying for purchases with cash, credit or by BlackBerry.

Whether they'll actually do so is another matter.

CIBC and Rogers Communications announced a partnership Tuesday that will harness the Near Field Communication technology built into newer BlackBerrys, allowing the phones to act like a credit card at checkout.

The technology will work exclusively with CIBC credit-card accounts and BlackBerrys on the Rogers network at launch, which is tentatively scheduled for "later this year."

"Some people might not carry a wallet but they'll always have their smartphone," said David Williamson, senior executive vice-president of retail and business banking for CIBC.

But consumer surveys suggest Canadians may not be all that keen on the notion of a digital wallet.

New research released Tuesday by Google suggested Canadians are lukewarm on the idea of using their phones to make online purchases. After speaking with 1,000 Canadian smartphone users, only 20 per cent said they had made a mobile purchase and only 16 per cent said they expected to boost their mobile shopping in the following year.

Meanwhile, a MasterCard research project called the Mobile Payments Readiness Index ranked Canada as the second best of 34 global markets in terms of being set to embrace mobile transactions (Singapore ranked first).

But while Canada ranked high for its partnerships between banks and governments, and its business and regulatory environments, it was below average when it came to the consumer-readiness metric.

MasterCard estimated only about 15 per cent of Canadian consumers were willing to use a mobile phone to pay in stores, which was two percentage points below the global average.

But Ian Shelley, a partner at KPMG, believes that figure is probably low-balling Canadian interest in the technology, which is sure to grow as word about it spreads.

"The 15 per cent number is really just the tech-savvy individuals who have kept up with the mobile-payments agenda," said Shelley.

"But once these sorts of announcements come up, I think you'll see much greater adoption."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protesting the Power Corporation

Police clash with protesters outside the Power Corp. annual general meeting in Old Montreal Tuesday where a few dozen protesters denounced Quebec's richest family. André and Paul Desmarais, the brothers who head the investment conglomerate, said they were being unfairly criticized as the company's annual meeting became the latest target in the ongoing protests in Quebec. "I think Power Corp. is a very good example of the one per cent and it shows how private companies can be more powerful than some countries," said a female protestor, who didn't want to give her name. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Housing markets. CREA reports hot Toronto and cold Vancouver

The Canadian housing market gained momentum in April as strong sales in the Toronto offset weakness in Vancouver, the Canadian Real Estate Association said Tuesday.

April seasonally adjusted home sales on CREA's Multiple Listing Service gained 0.8 per cent compared with March.

On a year-over-year basis, the association said there were 49,480 homes sold in April, up 11.5 per cent from 44,370 a year ago, when sales slowed following a tightening of mortgage-lending rules, including the elimination of 35-year amortizations, which came into effect March 2011.

Two of Canada's largest markets are having opposite effects on the national average, with slowing sales and falling prices in Vancouver dragging, and soaring sales and prices in Toronto exerting upward pressure.

The average home price in Canada in April was up 0.9 per cent from a year ago at $375,810.

"It bears repeating that the national average price was skewed higher last spring by record-level high-end home sales in Vancouver's priciest neighbourhoods, and that a replay of this phenomenon was not expected this year," said Gregory Klump, CREA's chief economist.

The average selling price in Vancouver was down 9.8 per cent compared with a year ago at $735,315, while the average price in Toronto was up 8.4 per cent at $517,556. April sales in Vancouver slid 13.2 per cent while Toronto sales picked up 14.5 per cent compared to a year ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawsuit. Strauss-Kahn suing N.Y.C. maid for $1M

Dominique Strauss-Kahn GETTY IMAGES

Dominique Strauss-Kahn is suing the hotel housekeeper who accused him of sexually assaulting her, saying she seriously damaged his reputation with what he calls a bogus allegation.

The former International Monetary Fund leader and French presidential hopeful struck back at maid Nafissatou Diallo's lawsuit against him with denials and a $1-million US defamation claim of his own Monday, exactly a year after she told police he tried to rape her in his Manhattan hotel suite. He says whatever happened was consensual.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survey

Finding the right employees is the challenge: CEOs

A survey of CEOs at Canadian tech startup companies says finding and keeping employees with the right skills is the biggest challenge.

The PwC annual survey found that 26 per cent of CEOs surveyed said "managing" talent was their biggest issue, followed by 25 per cent of those surveyed who said revenue was their main concern and 18 per cent who cited funding. Poor performance and poor skills were most often cited as the reason why CEOs let staff go, the survey said.

CEOs surveyed also said that the well-established "brain drain" of Canadian talent to U.S. companies continued to hurt their businesses.

Overall, revenues in this sector are increasing with growth at roughly 25 per cent in 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Personal computers

Software piracy totals $1.1 billion

The value of computer-software piracy in Canada totalled just more than $1.1 billion last year, with 40 per cent of computer users admitting they acquired software illegally, according to a study released Tuesday. The Business Software Alliance study found that nearly one in three copies of software was unlicensed in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Feds send out mixed signals on EI changes

Suitable employment.
No plan to force workers to take 'any job available,' human resources minister tells the Commons

The Harper government sent confusing signals Tuesday about coming changes to employment-insurance rules, declaring in favour of a hard-line approach while indicating the new measures will be moderate.

Human Resources Minister Diane Finley told the House of Commons there's no plan to force jobless workers receiving EI benefits to take any job available, as the finance minister seemed to suggest the day before.

"Canadians will be expected to take jobs appropriate to their skill level in their area," she said.

That is decidedly different from Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's comments on Monday, when he said he was brought up to believe that "any job is a good job" and that the current EI rules are a disincentive to work.

Canadians won't know exactly what the government has in mind until new regulations on defining "suitable employment" are unveiled in the next few months.

And Finley agreed with Flaherty that one of the problems facing the economy is labour shortages, even though the current jobless rate of 7.3 per cent is more than a full point higher than prior to the 2008 recession.

In response to a question in the Commons, Prime Minister Stephen Harper appeared to back his finance minister.

"Let's face it, Canada is facing unprecedented shortages of labour and skills, so we need to help Canadians who are unemployed get back to work quickly."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murdoch's media star charged

One of Rupert Murdoch's most trusted lieutenants, former U.K. tabloid editor Rebekah Brooks, seen leaving her lawyer's office in London with husband Charlie Brooks, was charged Tuesday alongside five others with conspiring to hide evidence of phone hacking. The 43-year-old Brooks, who quit as News International chief executive in July, faces three separate allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice — an offence that carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The charges against Brooks, her husband and four aides are the first prosecutions since police reopened inquiries 18 months ago into wrongdoing by the country's scandal-hungry press.

SEAN DEMPSEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook. Raised IPO values company at more than $100 billion US

Already expected to be the largest-ever initial public offering for an Internet company, Facebook is making its IPO even bigger.

On Tuesday, the world's largest online social network increased the planned price range for its stock to $34 to $38 US per share in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. That's up from its previous range of $28 to $35. At the upper limit of $38, the sale would raise about $12.8 billion.

The move, which values Facebook as high as $104 billion, comes amid growing investor excitement about the offering. Analysts are comparing the frenzy surrounding Facebook's IPO to Google's in 2004, though in sheer size the latter pales in comparison.

At the same time, half of Americans think the expected value for Facebook is too high, according to a new Associated Press-CNBC poll conducted before the company raised its expected stock price on Tuesday. Only a third of those surveyed said they think Facebook's expected value is appropriate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"This is a deal that literally must work, in that it is so high-profile."

Scott Sweet, owner of advisory firm IPOBoutique

Market Minute

DOLLAR 99.32¢ (-0.39¢)

Natural gas: $2.50 US (+6.9¢)
Dow Jones: 12,632 (-63.35)

TSX 11,343.05 (-145.48)

OIL $93.98 US (-80¢)

GOLD $1,557.10 US (-$3.90)

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AND WE THOUGHT THIS STUFF WAS ONLY IN MOVIES

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

While the rest of us are lined up at the multiplex to watch CGI superheroes toss CGI arch-villains around in The Avengers, the real nerds have, as you might expect, already moved on.

To something called "quantum entanglement."

Quantum entanglement is weird. Somehow, subatomic particles act on each other and it doesn't matter if they're in the same room or at opposite ends of the Milky Way. As soon as you know that one is "up," you know the other is "down" and vice versa. That's an oversimplification, but this entire column is an oversimplification. Trust me, you really don't want the unabridged version.

Quantum entanglement is so weird it blew Einstein's mind. He called it "spooky action at a distance," and thought it invalidated quantum theory until physicist John Bell proved it actually happens, thereby inventing Bell's Theorem.

Weird as it may be, quantum entanglement has fired up the imaginations of scientists everywhere, who think that someday it will mean super-fast quantum computers, instant communications across vast distances, time-travel and even teleportation, as in "Beam me up, Scotty."

Beam me up, Scotty

As we speak, on science blogs everywhere, people are earnestly debating the safety hazards associated with teleportation — whether or not it's the actual Captain Kirk who arrives back on the Enterprise or a quantum copy.

As we speak, on science blogs everywhere, people are earnestly debating the safety hazards associated with teleportation — whether or not it's the actual Captain Kirk who arrives back on the Enterprise or a quantum copy. The real Kirk has died and is left behind on Regulus III — his quantum copy just doesn't know it.

Back on the real Earth, progress is being made on untangling quantum entanglement. One group of Chinese scientists have managed to entangle eight photons (particles of light), and just this week another group of Chinese scientists announced that they have managed to go where no geek has gone before, teleporting an entangled pair of quantum bits, or qubits, 97 kilometres across a lake.

This is a big deal, as the damn qubits have a habit of unravelling or unentangling or whatever, due to problems not encountered in theorems, such as imperfections in optics and air turbulence. It may seem like a small step for humankind (actually really small — subatomic, even), but how long could it be before we can instantly beam William Shatner from one Priceline hotel to the other?

You have to love this stuff, even if it never means you'll be able to honeymoon on Shiralea VI and be back in time for work on Monday. As you think about this idea, of real matter acting in lockstep mysteriously across time and space, you get a glimpse of just how wonderful and mysterious the universe really is.

And you don't have to pay for parking or popcorn.

Boldly going where no man has gone before. CONTRIBUTED

Walk like an Egyptian turtle

ZACHARY CULPIN/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO AGENCY

Saving a species

Endangered tiny tortoises born

It's only the size of a coin, but this tortoise is priceless. Four hatchlings of the critically endangered Egyptian tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*) have been born at Marwell Wildlife, near Winchester, Hampshire, south England. Only just over a week old, the smallest of the youngsters weighed just 3.1 grams after hatching.

METRO WORLD NEWS

In numbers

2.14

centimetres is the approximate height of the first Egyptian tortoise hatchling, the same as the diameter of a small coin.

Facts and figures

- **Live long but still small.** Adults live for up to 50 years. These tortoises can grow to around 15 centimetres long and weigh 500 grams. This species of tortoise is the smallest in the northern hemisphere. The speckled padloper of South Africa is the world's smallest tortoise.
- **Egyptian by name only.** It's believed the Egyptian tortoise no longer exists in its namesake country. The species disappeared there some twenty years ago due to acidification of land, overgrazing and pet trade over-collecting.
- **In decline.** "Their numbers have declined severely in the last 30 years," Sherif Baha el-Din, scientific adviser at the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, told ABC News. He said a survey in Egypt in 1994 had failed to locate any wild tortoises at all. "They are very ancient animals and haven't changed much over the years, which makes them more susceptible to problems."

Metropolitan Panel

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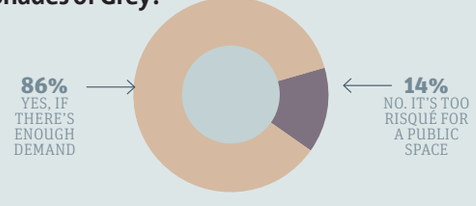
Should libraries stock the erotic tale Fifty Shades of Grey?



Twitter

@gordonr: Bummer to see @ryder_hesjedal lose the maglia rosa today; hopefully means @Ride_Argyle have a bit less pressure defending. #weightofanation

@DrMoiraStilwell: The problem with year round schooling is no long summer camp — my kids lived for those weeks!

@Swanny715: @streetcrow Quit tearing open the garbage I put out on the curb. I swear if this happens like 13-14 more times we're going to have a problem

@VanMayorsOffice: Part of Viva Vancouver, Robson Square will be activated as a public square for this summer, starting June 23

@strombone1: "@RKVancouver: Jannik Hansen would make a great Bachelor of Vancouver" We must not be thinking about the same Jannik Hansen.....

metro
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Unlikely rom-com

Dictator forces you to be entertained

The Dictator

Director. Larry Charles

Stars: Sacha Baron Cohen

Although it's more conventional than his breakout hit Borat, funnyman Sacha Baron Cohen's The Dictator is also only slightly less obscene. Starring as the fascist despot of fictional Wadiya, Cohen's idiotic oppressor gets lost in America and develops an unlikely romance with a feminist (Anna Faris). Certainly more plot-driven than his previous pictures this film is also more predictable. Still, with Cohen's uncanny ability to bring hilarity to even the most offensive of characters, The Dictator commands you to enjoy it.

STEVE GOW

The Dictator listings:
Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:15-3:30-5:55-8:15-10:35
North Shore Esplanade 6
Wed-Thu 7:40-10
Richmond Centre 6
No Passes Wed-Thu 11:55-12:30-2:05-2:55-4:20-5:30-6:35-8-8:50-10:30-11
SilverCity Metropolis
No Passes Wed-Thu 1-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45
SilverCity Coquitlam
No Passes Wed 1:15-3:30-5:45-8-10:40 No Passes Thu 1:15-3:30-5:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 3:20-5:40-8:15-10:35 No Passes Thu 8-10:40
Strawberry Hill Grande
No Passes Wed-Thu 12-2:05-4:20-6:35-8:50-10:55
Studio 12 Guildford
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4:50-8:10
Criterion 4 White Rock
Wed-Thu 7:15-9:25

While brushing his teeth, Norman pretends that he is a zombie in the children's animated feature ParaNorman. HANDOUT

The not-so-normal making of ParaNorman

Stop-motion technology. Elaborate, painstaking animation gives this children's monster movie a gritty but stunning feel

It's a story of a little boy who is bullied at school. It would be universal, except that Norman is able to see ghosts and zombies.

CAROLYN MORRIS
scene@metronews.ca

And the 3-D movie is shot using labour-intensive stop-motion technology. At a time when computer-generated imagery is creating stunning and elaborate animation, the tactile quality of ParaNorman is refreshingly unusual.

Part comedy, part horror pastiche, ParaNorman (in theatres August 17) is produced by Laika, the studio that made Coraline, a 2009 3-D stop-motion children's film, nominated for an Academy Award for best animated feature.

ParaNorman writer and co-director Chris Butler has a soft spot for the paranormal, having grown up on The Goonies, Ghostbusters and Scooby-Doo.

"I think there is something thrilling to kids about monsters. As long as you're saying that there's a monster and it can be beaten. I think that's important," he says.

The directors wanted a raw, gritty animation style. And the studio focused on real-life materials to achieve it. In its puppet and set-construction departments, fine artists, jewelers, engineers, and even chemists crafted the characters and scenes.

While the movie boasts some high-profile voices — including young stars Kodi Smit-McPhee and Anna Kendrick — much of the "acting" is shared by an invisible cast of about 25 animators who work alone, manipulating the puppets on separate sets, and sometimes shooting as few as 15 or 16 frames in an entire day (less than one second of footage). On a good day, they'll shoot several seconds.

Director duo

Sam Fell and Chris Butler (writer) teamed up to co-direct this children's film.

- According to Butler, the original idea was "John Carpenter-meets-John Hughes." Carpenter directed horror classic Halloween, while Hughes directed Ferris Bueller's Day Off.
- Co-director Fell compared the film's look to William Eggleston's photography of objects like junk in a gutter, or a chainlink fence.

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2 SCENE

Awards-show accident

Michaels gets Tony Awards settlement

Bret Michaels and organizers of the Tony Awards have settled a lawsuit filed by the rocker after a 2009 incident in which he was hit in the head with a set piece and suffered injuries that contributed to a brain hemorrhage that nearly killed him.

The confidential settlement also covers Michaels' claims against CBS, which aired the show — and the mishap, which became a viral video watched by tens of millions online.

The Poison frontman blamed the network for airing the moment and claimed Tony Awards producers never warned him there would be a set change after he and his band performed Nothin' But a Good Time.

The whack initially left Michaels with a busted lip and broken nose, but also caused brain bleeding. He was hospitalized in April 2010 and doctors found he had a brain hemorrhage and he later suffered a warning stroke, which the musician says nearly killed him.

Michaels' attorney Alex Weingarten said details of the settlement would not be released. "Mr. Michaels would like to thank his fans for their continued support," he wrote in a statement.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Kennedy Center to honour Ellen DeGeneres with Mark Twain award, the nation's top humour prize.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Maybe Jay-Z should run for President

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

When Jay-Z went on CNN yesterday and was asked about Obama's recent public support of gay marriage, he didn't necessarily say anything groundbreaking.

We're all humans, we're wasting our time talking about this, love happens: you've heard this before.

But, that said, everything sounds so much cooler — so obviously a good idea — when it's delivered with a little Jay-Z swagger. This guy should consider running for office — or calling us:

"I've always thought it as something that was still holding the country back. What people do in their own homes is their business."

Of course it is. I bet your home is nice. It seems like it would smell really nice and have good snacks. Swoon.

"You can choose to love whoever you love."

Like you, for instance. I mean, if Beyonce's cool with it. She's probably not. Forget this part happened.

"It's really not about votes, it's about people. Whether it costs (Obama) votes or not, I think it's the right thing to do as a human being."

We're humans! We love being human. Go humans.

The Cruise moves

We don't know what to make of the June cover of W magazine: we get that it's a joke and Tom Cruise is in character for his upcoming heavy metal musical Rock of Ages, but we suspect he thinks he looks seriously hot here.

Inside, the actor talks about where he learned his Risky Business dance moves, which he puts to good use in the new film. "I did the scene from Risky Business around the house," he tells the magazine. "I would sing Bob Seger — my mother worked, my sisters were out, and I'd turn the music up. I learned how to dance watching Soul Train. I noticed that if a guy could dance, he'd get a lot of attention and girls would want to dance with him. I worked very hard at imitating those moves."

John Travolta

Private Travolta trial set to be 'one hell of a fight'

While John Travolta's second accuser won't be facing the star in a public trial, the lawyer representing him doesn't want people to think they won't be putting up a fight. "I want a full trial with a private judge," Okorie Okorocha tells People magazine in response to reports the case may be heading into mediation. "There is no mediation. There'll never be a settlement. I want privacy for sex crime victims. It looks like (Travolta's attorney Marty Singer) wants one hell of a fight."

Charlize Theron over the moon about becoming a mom

Charlize Theron admits that everything in her life has changed since adopting a baby boy, Jackson, in March.

"It's strangely everything that you've hoped for and it feels so right. I don't know how else to say it," Theron tells E! News.

"I feel like I can't remember anything prior to him. I feel like it was always just meant to be what it is."

Charlize Theron ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Jessica Alba didn't always like the spotlight

While Jessica Alba is comfortable with her public image now, it wasn't always so easy, she admits — especially back in her Dark Angel days.

"I had a show that premiered when I was 19. And right away, everyone formed a strong opinion about me because of the way I was marketed. I was supposed to be sexy, this tough action girl. That's what people expected," she tells Marie Claire magazine.

"I felt like I was being objectified, and it made me uncomfortable. I wanted to be chic and elegant!"

Jessica Alba

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Baby name came easy for Hemsworth and his wife

Chris Hemsworth

What's in a name? Well, for Chris Hemsworth's newborn daughter, India, it simply pleased the parents.

"It was just a name we liked," Hemsworth explains to E! News. "I always kind of liked Indy or Indiana for a boy, and she liked India. We sort of went, 'Oh, well, whether it's a boy or girl, that will decide it.' It just seemed to fit." The 28-year-old Avengers star is equally pleased with finally being a father. "I've wanted to have kids for a long time, and here it is, and I couldn't be happier."

Quoted

"I've wanted to have kids for a long time, and here it is, and I couldn't be happier."

Chris Hemsworth

Want a beach vacation but can't stand the thought of staying at a mega-resort? In Mexico, you don't have to. Getting Canadians away from crowded beaches and watered-down fruity drinks is Sylvie Laitre's specialty. The director of Mexico Boutique Hotels lives in Puerto Vallarta and has spent 15 years travelling the country looking for hidden gems that offer privacy and tranquility. Here are her Top 5 picks:

DAWN CUTHBERTSON
life@metronews.ca

5 top boutique hotels in Mexico

1 Casa de Mita

Location: Punta de Mita, a 45-minute drive from the Puerto Vallarta airport.

Description: With just eight rooms on the property, guests who visit this all-inclusive beachfront property rave about the chef's creations and attentive staff. Each room has a private balcony facing the Pacific Ocean and there are endless activities to enjoy, from getting a massage to playing a round of golf.

Price: $565-$895 per night.

Travel tip: This adults-only resort is so popular it has repeat guests, so book early.

2 Playa Escondida

Location: Sayulita, a one-hour drive from the Puerto Vallarta airport.

Description: Peaceful, quirky and secluded. Those are the words most people who've stayed here use to describe the resort. Lush with vegetation, this property caters to adventurous Canadians.

Price: $150-$400 per night.

Travel tip: The showers for some rooms are outside, but still private, and most people say it just adds to the charm of the property.

3 Capella Ixtapa

Location: A 20-minute drive from the Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo airport.

Description: Nestled on the side of a rocky cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, this 59-suite property is known for its stunning architecture. Guests love that there's a private plunge pool in every room.

Price: $275-1,350 per night

Travel tip: This property does not have a beach to laze on all day, but there are two pools, including one that's salt-water.

5 Villas Flamingos

Location: Isla Holbox, about three hours north of the Cancun airport.

Description: This funky eco-friendly resort is the exact antithesis of the debauchery that goes on in Cancun. A property that caters to families and couples, guests can stay in suites, a bungalow or rent the island's only beach house. The laid-back atmosphere encourages relaxation and you can walk almost anywhere barefoot.

Price: $107-$497 per night. Includes breakfast for two.

Travel tip: This property is one of a few in the world that can take you swimming with whale sharks.

4 Viceroy Riviera Maya

Location: Playa Xcalacoco, about 20 minutes from Playa del Carmen. Fly into Cancun.

Description: Popular among honeymooners and couples, this property is luxurious, romantic and the perfect place to celebrate a major milestone. Guests rave about the spa, where you can get an ancient Mayan massage or a body treatment where hibiscus flowers are used to encourage radiance and energy back into your skin.

Price: $605-$2,720 per night.

Travel Tip: Most reviewers on Trip Advisor find the food and wine to be expensive.

3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Skrillex to lead train tour

Grammy-winning dubstep DJ Skrillex will be exploring a different kind of track this summer as he leads a group of electronic artists on a tour through Canada on a private passenger train. The tour will also feature performances by buzzy Montreal artist Grimes, Philadelphia DJ Diplo and Colorado's Pretty Lights. The cross-country trek will kick off on July 13 in Toronto with stops in Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

New photo exhibition reveals the early days of Bono and U2, documenting the band's gritty origins in 1970s Dublin

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The red rooftops of Vieux Nice glow in the sunset. MICHELLE LOCK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nice: Seaside city not just a sunny spot for the stars

History awaits. Explore 'Vieux Nice,' famous for its flower market, chateau ruins and red-tiled roofs from To Catch a Thief

Fair warning: Spend all the hours you want gazing over the red-tiled roofs of Old Nice, but it's highly unlikely a Cary Grant-lookalike will come scrambling over the chimney pots like the scene in To Catch a Thief, which was set on the Riviera.

Not to worry. There are plenty of other diversions in "Vieux Nice," from strolling its narrow streets, to shopping the famous flower market or dipping a toe in the Mediterranean, mere steps away.

Set on the azure crescent of the Bay of Angels, Nice is the second-largest city in Provence (after Marseille) and easily accessible. Its international airport offers direct flights from the U.S. or connecting flights through Paris. Getting around is quite easy, too, with tramway and bus systems as well as regional trains serving the coast.

Old Nice, the historic part of the city, is a maze of alleys and small squares in a roughly triangular shape bordered by the sea, a hill that was once home to a castle and Boulevard Jean Jaures. It's near the Opera or Cathedral-Vieille Ville tram station and offers a few lodging options including Hotel Beau Rivage and Hotel Suisse.

Al fresco France

In Old Nice, put together a 'pique-nique' of bread, cheese, olives and wine from the shops in the market and enjoy your spread at the Colline du Chateau (Castle Hill) above Old Nice. There's no chateau, but there are ruins, green spaces and a fabulous, panoramic view of Nice and the curving sweep of the waterfront.

A few caveats — Old Nice is not without crime, especially at night, so watch your valuables and be careful, especially if you're alone. The weather is generally mild year-round, but the best beach days are in summer, and the biggest crowds are in August, when the French and other Europeans take their holiday.

The Nice Jazz Festival takes place each July (this year July 8-12) and for winter fun, Carnival unfolds in February, ending on Mardi Gras with parades and "flower battles" in which costumed characters on floats throw flowers into the crowd.

Notable residents have included Matisse and F. Scott Fitzgerald; Angelina Jolie had her twins in a Nice hospital in 2008. But the local celebrity factor is really amped up each spring during the annual film festival in the once-sleepy fishing village of Cannes, about 25 kilometres southwest of Nice (this year May 16-27).

You need credentials to get into the official events, but you can get a taste of the bustling festival by walking along the Croisette, the street that runs next to the beach and is packed with upscale hotels, shopping and cafes.

Eavesdrop on suited executives travelling in pairs and talking distribution deals in New York accents, watch the harassed gendarmes as they try to bring order to traffic, and look on as local photographers make like paparazzi and shoot passersby.

Don't be too flattered if they take your picture; a sales pitch for the photo is the usual followup. For more on ways to enjoy Cannes without a badge, check out the bestofniceblog.com written by American Allison Coe, a longtime resident of Nice.

Options for a sit-down meal in Old Nice range from casual cafes, like Cave de la Tour, to restaurants like Le Bistro Gourmand, which won a Michelin star only a year after opening.

Back in Vieux Nice, perhaps the best way to appreciate the timeless glamour of the town is to find your way to high ground and enjoy a cocktail or a glass of the local Provencal pale pink rose wine. Just across from Old Nice is the Clarion Grand Hotel Aston, with its Seven Blue Bar boasting views of the city and the sea beyond. Sit, sip and relax as the sky softly glows orange, rose and lavender above ruddy red roofs

Who needs Cary?

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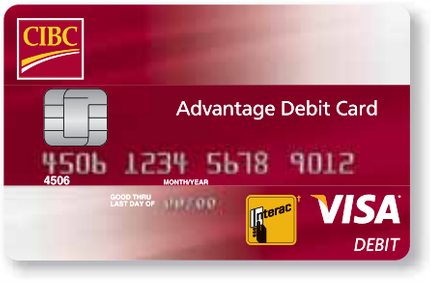

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Caverns just got a 'hole' lot deeper

New sections opened. Previously inaccessible areas have been cleared out for visitors and will open at the end of May

Sections of a cave system that haven't been open before to the public will be available for tours in a few weeks in west central Ohio just in time for the summer season.

Visitors to Ohio Caverns in West Liberty still will be able to take the tour that has been offered since 1925 at the caverns, known for their array of colours and abundant stalactites and stalagmites.

But beginning on the U.S. Memorial Day (May 28) weekend, they also can choose a tour providing more historical information about the cave and a shorter one with access for the disabled — rare in caves due to the often rough terrain.

The sections formerly closed off by debris and mud will make the existing tour and the historical one each about 1.6 kilometres long, increasing the amount of surveyed passageways to 5.5 kilometres.

Workers started clearing the thick clay-like mud in the formerly closed sections in 2007.

"You could crawl through the areas, but you couldn't walk in them," Ohio Caverns owner Eric Evans said.

The caverns running underneath a 35-acre park in Logan and Champaign counties were formed thousands of years ago when an underground river cut through limestone, forming large rooms and passageways. Mineral deposits created highly decorative cave walls stained with red, orange, blue, purple and yellow in addition to the more traditional brown, black and white.

The caverns about 72 kilometres northwest of Columbus were discovered in 1897 by a farm hand when a nine-metre deep sinkhole opened up after heavy rain, Evans said.

The 45-minute formal tour offered for nearly 90 years takes visitors past formations such as the Crystal King, a 400-pound white stalactite nearly 1.5-metres long and more than 200,000 years old, and the Palace, featuring translucent crystals.

The new sections don't have as many formations, but offer additional colour and another entrance so visitors don't have to backtrack to exit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Palace Room formation in the Ohio Caverns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jamie Oliver wants you

On May 19, the famous British chef asks you to join his healthy-eating crusade, a.k.a. Food Revolution Day
'I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza. I'm anti- shit food,' he says

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Chef Jamie Oliver has devoted his career to fighting unhealthy eating — and you can see why: Global obesity has more than doubled since 1980. Each year, 2.8 million adults around the world die as a result of being overweight.

On Saturday May 19, the British TV star launches his latest effort, Food Revolution Day, a global campaign that asks you to think about eating right: host a food event serving organic foods, or a locally-sourced dinner party, or start a campaign at work or school.

Check out foodrevolutionday.com for more ideas and events in your city.

Here's Oliver on why you should join the movement:

The obesity crisis: How did we end up here?

The main issue is the Western diet: it's single-handedly more responsible for damage to global health than anything else. In so many Western countries, we have three generations of people who were never taught how to cook at home. Both parents were at work, food education at school is so shit, they can't learn there. I've been in houses where kids only hydrate on fizzy drinks and show no interest in tap water.And technology, freezing techniques and processed foods have only made things worse.

Will the world ever get healthy again?

I actually think that multinationals and fast-food companies are the best people to lead the change. If they chose to get behind healthy eating, they would do a better job than any other government or individual. If you thought the oil and petrol industry was complicated and causing wars, think again. The food industry is on another level. The problem is the corruption between food industries and governments. We need to address smaller issues like chicken farming or pink slime. Stop these products from ever being registered. How f—ing dare they?

And how will the Food Revolution Day help?

I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza; I'm anti- shit food. With Food Revolution Day, I'm trying to get as many people as possible to stir the pot. We all need to become a little fussier about what we put in our gobs [mouths].

When you put something in your mouth, it's a very personal thing that affects you straight away.

You've already tried to change North American food habits once. What makes you think that they will listen to you this time?

I expect nothing. People may not want me around but I don't think I've ever wasted my time. I don't give a shit if people think I'm crazy. North America is difficult, as it's where a lot of the unhealthy foods and brands are created. It's the eye of the storm. Most countries eventually follow their trends, whether they like it or not.

Ultimately, though, do you think most Americans would rather go to McDonald's than go to the gym?

Things need to change otherwise the whole country will come to a standstill. People won't be mobile. It's a question of national security. How can you train an army if the nation is obese? Progress will happen. They have no choice.

We would eat anything this man served us. DAVID LOFTUS

Jamie's Vegetarian Chili

Full of bright vegetables and bold flavours, this healthy dish is worth the chopping.

- Make it tonight. metronews.ca/food

A big fat problem

"I actually think that multi-nationals and fast food companies are the best people to lead the change. If they chose to get behind healthy eating, they would do a better job any other government or individual. If you thought the oil and petrol [gas] industry was complicated and causing wars, think again. The food industry is on another level."

Chef Jamie Oliver
When asked if he thinks the world will ever get healthy again

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EVERY BIT COUNTS

HELPING CHILDREN MANAGE THEIR FOOD ALLERGIES

For millions of Canadians, especially children, living with serious food allergies can be challenging. Understanding what the risks are and learning how to safely manage them is essential, both for the allergic individual and those who care for them.

According to the recent Overall Prevalence of Self-reported Food Allergy in Canada report, approximately 2.5 million Canadians self-report at least one food allergy. Although some food allergies, such as egg and milk, can be outgrown, some tend to be lifelong, including peanuts, tree nuts, fish and shellfish. With no known cure for food allergies, avoiding the foods that can cause an allergic reaction is essential to staying safe.

Knowing the signs of an allergic reaction — and how to treat to one — is also important. Allergic reactions can range from mild, such as a rash or hives, to the most serious — including difficulty breathing and sudden drop in blood pressure. There is no way of knowing how quickly a reaction will progress or how severe it will be, so it's important to respond quickly with life-saving medication. This is available in an easy-to-use auto-injector device such as an EpiPen® or Twinject®.

Beatrice Povolo, director, marketing and communications, Anaphylaxis Canada.

ANAPHYLAXIS CANADA PHOTO

Joseph is always prepared when he goes to school.

ANAPHYLAXIS CANADA PHOTO

Although the main responsibility for managing food allergies is with the allergic individual, they need support from those around them. This is especially true for children.

In order to help protect children with food allergies, the government of Ontario passed Sabrina's Law in 2005, named in honour of Ontario teenager Sabrina Shannon, who died from an allergic reaction while at school. The law calls for improved procedures, increased training, and better community awareness, which has helped to create safer environments for allergic students. Similar laws and policies have also been adopted in other provinces.

HELPFUL TIPS

Anaphylaxis Canada, the leading national advocacy organization for people with food allergies, recommends the following tips for children:

- Wash hands before and after eating.
- Eat only "approved foods" from home.
- Do not share food.
- Keep your auto-injector with you at all times.
- Learn to read food labels.
- Tell others about their allergies.

OTHERS CAN HELP:

- Read food labels and avoid cross-contamination when preparing food
- Know the signs of a reaction and how to help.

For more information or to donate to Anaphylaxis Canada, please visit anaphylaxis.ca.

Know what's good for you™

Sugar Intolerances...but still have that sweet tooth?

Natural sugar alternatives, such as Organic Coconut Palm Sugar can be used to add sweetness to foods without the complications of consuming refined sugars.

Health Recipe of the week

Raspberry Whole Meal Muffins

1 1/3 cups whole wheat flour
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/3 cup **Organika® Organic Coconut Palm Sugar**
1 egg
4 ¼ oz melted **Organika® Virgin Organic Coconut Oil**
½ cup almond milk
½ tsp grated lemon zest
¼ cup frozen raspberries
2/3 cup **Organika® Ultimate Fiber Blend**
Extra coconut sugar for sprinkling

Preheat oven to 350Of.

Sift flour and cinnamon into a large bowl. Stir in Organika Coconut Sugar and a pinch of salt. Make a well in the center.

In a separate bowl, whisk egg, Organika Coconut Oil, almond milk, lemon zest. **DO NOT DO THIS STEP AHEAD OF TIME,** coconut oil hardens very quickly. Pour the mixture into the dry ingredients; and stir to combine.

Spoon batter into muffin holes to 1/3 full, then add 2 to 3 frozen raspberries to the center of each muffin. Top with the remaining batter and sprinkle with extra Organika Coconut Sugar.

Bake for 20-25 minutes or until they are golden brown and an inserted stick can be removed clean.

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The new bilingualism: computer-speak

Student voices

Casting a 'net' to reel in a job

Shannon Gallagher. CONTRIBUTED

Shannon Gallagher
Graduate, BMOS, Organizational and Human Resources
University of Western Ontario
TalentEgg.ca

I found my current employer, a digital agency called rtraction, through networking on Twitter. I learned about the company and people through their extensive use of Twitter and had interacted with several of them personally before approaching them for the opportunity to work as a marketing intern.

There wasn't an existing position or opening, but they had me in to chat and decided that they would like to have me on the team, and that was how the marketing internship position was created.

Employers: please interact with students and recent grads on social media sites! It's where we are, and it's where we look for employers (depending on the industry).

There is huge potential to interest future (and current) employees, solicit feedback, and grow/maintain a positive corporate image. Google, Fairmont, and RIM are perfect examples of companies doing it, and doing it well.

I finished up my degree last year and started my search for a full-time position in marketing but ended up staying on with rtraction as a digital marketing strategist.

TalentEgg. Sometimes getting that job means knowing how the speak the language — even HTML

LAUREN STEIN
talentegg.ca

Being proficient with computer languages is one trait many employers are looking for. ISTOCK

Earlier this year, I learned that I was shortlisted for a job alongside one other candidate.

I'd submitted a portfolio, interviewed with my potential supervisor, wrote a set of sample pieces, and was (obviously) really eager to learn whether or not I'd be making the cut.

Lucky for me, I had an inside source to scoop who my competition was and why we were the two left standing. What I wasn't expecting was to discover that our strengths and weaknesses both had to do with our proficiency with language: the other candidate's written French was much more polished than mine, but I'd demonstrated my understanding of HTML and CSS.

Fast-forwarding a tad, you should know that neither of us got the job as the company underwent a bit of a hiring freeze (it happens). But I was still intrigued by my competition's lack of knowledge of markup languages. How is it, considering how prevalent the Internet and technology are in most fields nowadays, that some still don't know how to code?

Sure, it's as easy now as it ever was to fully customize your Tumblr, Blogger or Twitter page with a simple click or drag and drop. A decade ago, we were doing it with GeoCities and LiveJournal. Except it gets tiresome seeing the same layout over and over again — with all the blogs and personal websites out there, standing out is key. In this day and age, design is important.

LAUREN STEIN IS A RECENT GRADUATE OF THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Online resources

The Internet is crawling with resources for beginner code-monkeys.

- **Back to basics.** The first site I ever looked to for HTML how-to was Lissa Explains. Don't let the eye-popping fluorescent-themed colour scheme fool you — it's extremely useful. If you've never encountered anything code-related before, this site is fantastic because it's meant for kids.
- **Instant gratification.** It works lesson-by-lesson and when you understand key concepts, it gives you badges and points. Sounds kind of fun, no?
- **The experts.** Mozilla, the fine folks behind Firefox, have created the Mozilla Developer Network, a hub that's full of tools and articles on web development There's also a lot more than just HTML and CSS.

Translating communications skills into a social-media career

JUSTINE ABIGAIL YU
talentegg.ca

Just a few years ago, my job didn't even exist. Now, some 79 per cent of corporations have jumped on the bandwagon, hiring social-media and community managers to drive their online efforts. The growth is astounding and it's a role that's here to stay.

I've worked in social media for the past three years now and it's been an incredibly rewarding experience. It's the perfect job if you're someone who enjoys interacting with people (remember, it is 'social' media!) and thrives on creativity, risk and experimentation.

But what are employers looking for when hiring someone to fill this role? Hint: they're not looking for someone who can stare at their Facebook feed all day.

Adaptability and versatility

Online and social media is one of the most — if not the most — fast-paced and booming industries. New technologies and tools emerge and fall everyday. Social media and community managers must be quick to adapt to new trends and understand how to apply them to a company's advantage.

More than that, they often have to be comfortable wearing different hats and juggling different skills. You must be a researcher, a communicator, a writer, an event-planner … all at the same time.

Solid communications skills

Well, this is a bit obvious. After all, a career in social media is ultimately a career in communications. But I can't stress enough how essential writing and verbal skills are. Social media come in different forms — blog posts, videos, Twitter, you name it … and you need to be the Jack (or Jill) of all communication trades.

Flexibility and constant connection

Conversations don't stop the minute you walk out of the office. The thing about the online world is that it operates 24/7 and conversations will happen with or without you. Your hours will be a little different from the usual nine-to-five grind because people are always talking, tweeting, uploading videos and photos, and updating their Facebook status. Digital does not stop.

Enthusiasm, energy and passion

You are the online voice and face for the company. You need to exude passion for whatever product or service you are representing. You need to understand the industry lingo, empathize with the company's community, and just straight-up live and breathe that brand. Being the resident evangelist for an organization/cause/brand that you do believe in is a great feeling. Just remember, passion is never overrated and it sure as hell can't be forced.

JUSTINE ABIGAIL YU IS A COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONAL BY DAY AND A FREELANCE WRITER BY NIGHT. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Twitter

@TalentEgg
What are the must-have Internet & social media skills for new grads?

@samdunsiger
Knowledge of channels, communication & messaging skills.

@desiraeo
Good judgement!

@MaddieLeznoff
Proper spelling and grammar!

@ElissaRiddell
be able to quickly understand the value propositions of internet and social media tools, and whether they are useful to the firm.

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The ability to filter: what's appropriate to post and what is not!!

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NBA

Pacers steal one in Miami

David West scored 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, George Hill added 15 and the Indiana Pacers took home-court advantage away from Miami by beating the Heat, 78-75, in Game 2 of the teams' Eastern Conference semifinal series Tuesday night.

LeBron James scored 28 points for Miami and Dwyane Wade finished with 24, but both missed big chances for the Heat late. James missed two free throws with 54.3 seconds left and Miami down one, and Wade was short on a layup that would have tied the game with 16 seconds remaining.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cycling

Hesjedal loses lead at Giro

Spanish rider Joaquin Rodriguez took the overall lead in the Giro d'Italia from Victoria's Ryder Hesjedal on Tuesday after winning the 10th stage in a sprint finish.

Hesjedal was only six seconds behind in sixth place, but Rodriguez moved ahead of him thanks to a 20-second time bonus for the stage victory.

"Hats off to Purito," Hesjedal said in an email to The Canadian Press, referring to Rodriguez's nickname. "His team was incredibly strong and they took the initiative riding all day." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joaquin Rodriguez gets a kiss after the 10th stage on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Goaltender Jonathan Quick defends his net as his Kings teammate Slave Voynov tracks Phoenix's Martin Hanzal on Tuesday in Glendale, Ariz. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Kings on the Quick road to cup final

NHL. Los Angeles dominant again in Phoenix

Jeff Carter scored three goals, Jonathan Quick stopped 24 shots and the Los Angeles Kings matched an NHL record with their seventh straight road playoff victory, beating the Phoenix Coyotes 4-0 Tuesday night to take control of Western Conference final.

Los Angeles dominated the opener and was even better in Game 2, withstanding Phoenix's initial push and string of penalties for a 2-0 series lead.

Dwight King scored his third goal in two games and Quick tied a team record with his third career playoff shutout to give the Kings a dominating lead heading into Game 3 Thursday night in Los Angeles.

The Kings have won nine straight road playoff games in two seasons, matching the NHL record set by the New York Islanders from 1982-83.

The Islanders won the Stanley Cup both of those years.

Quick matched Felix Potvin's team record for playoff shutouts and Carter finished off his first career playoff hat trick in the third period, securing the Kings' seventh straight win overall.

The Coyotes played better early and fell apart late, becoming frustrated after being unable to contain the more skilled Kings.

Game 2

Kings	Coyotes
4	0

Phoenix was hit with a string of penalties starting late in the second period, including a game misconduct to captain Shane Doan for boarding Kings centre Trevor Lewis. Martin Hanzal also received one for boarding Dustin Brown in the third period and the Coyotes had 13 penalties for 56 minutes — most coming after the final five minutes of the second period.

The Kings won the opener 4-2 by outplaying and outhustling Phoenix.

Knowing Phoenix's makeup, the Kings figured to get more of a pushback in Game 2.

And the Coyotes were much more aggressive early, winning some of the individual battles they lost in Game 1 while creating some decent scoring chances.

Even with all of Phoenix's hard work and a couple of line changes by coach Dave Tippett, the Kings still managed to score first. King got it, redirecting a shot by Drew Doughty that beat Mike Smith stick side late in the period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caps look to take next step in Canadian final

The Whitecaps celebrate Eric Hassli's goal during last Saturday's loss to the Revolution in Foxboro, Mass. GAIL OSKIN/GETTY IMAGES

Their reasons may be different, but both the Vancouver Whitecaps and Toronto FC will be desperate for a title when they meet in the final of the Amway Canadian Championship.

For the Whitecaps, a win would mark a milestone in their development after three disappointing years of trying to grab national glory.

For three-time defending champion Toronto, another title represents a chance to salvage their MLS season.

"The winner lifts a trophy and the loser gets forgotten," said Whitecaps midfielder John Thorrington on Tuesday. "So we definitely don't want to come up on the losing ends over these next two weeks."

Quoted

"I was a champion when I played in Zurich and it was a great feeling. I want to win this Canadian Cup."

Whitecaps striker Eric Hassli.

The two-game, total-goals series starts Wednesday in Vancouver. The winner advances to the CONCACAF Champions League.

The Whitecaps qualified for the Canadian final with a 5-1 aggregate win over FC Edmonton in the semifinal. Vancouver is a respectable 5-3-2 in MLS play.

On the other hand, Toronto squeaked into the final with a 2-0 decision over Montreal in last week's second leg of their semifinal. The win followed a scoreless draw in the first leg at Montreal and eight straight losses for TFC in league play.

"We needed a victory and the victory against Montreal was very important," said Toronto coach Aron Winter. "Also the way we reached it ... we played good football."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

NBA

Fresh Spurs grab series lead

Tim Duncan had 26 points and 10 rebounds and the San Antonio Spurs, recharged after a weeklong layoff, wore down the busy Los Angeles Clippers to win Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal series, 108-92, Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IIHF

Slovakia up next for Team Canada

Canada set itself up with the best possible path into the medal round at the IIHF world hockey championship after clinching top spot in the Helsinki pool with a 5-1 victory over Belarus on Tuesday. It was an important step for a team that desperately wants to avoid a third straight early exit at the tournament. Canada has drawn Slovakia, which won five straight games to finish the round robin, for Thursday's do-or-die game. But by winning its pool, Canada guaranteed that it won't see the powerhouse Russians before the gold-medal final. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

The Staples Center in Los Angeles will easily be the busiest building in pro sports later this week as it hosts six playoff games in four days. Scan the code to find out how officials plan to solve the Kings, Lakers, Clippers puzzle.

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Looking to Escape sedan life?

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'Intelligent' AWD

The Escape's new "Intelligent" all-wheel-drive system is available on both turbocharged models. According to Ford, it continually assesses road conditions and driver inputs "about 20 times faster than the blink of an eye" and can shift up to 100 per cent of the available power to either the front or rear wheels for maximum grip.

Curve Control

The Escape is the first Ford to incorporate Torque Vectoring Control and Curve Control. The idea is to distribute the correct amount of power to each wheel when cornering so that the vehicle sticks to the intended path. A display screen keeps you informed as to where the power is being directed.

2013 Ford Escape

- **Type.** Four-door, front- /all-wheel-drive compact tall wagon.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (168); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (173); 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (237).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $23,000.

The only transmission available on the Escape is a six-speed automatic.

Engines

Ford has advanced powerplant choices and has done so without resorting to a V6 option. Base front-wheel-drive models run with a 168-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder, while front- and all-wheel-drive SE and SEL designations use a 173-horsepower 1.6-litre turbocharged "EcoBoost" four-cylinder.

Review. After 12 years, you had to know Ford's change was going to be huge

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

For the past 12 seasons, the Ford Escape has proven a popular choice with buyers of entry-priced wagons. In car terms, 12 years is a lifetime — or two lifetimes, even — so the arrival of a successor to one of the company's top sellers is way overdue.

With an impressive sales history on its side, it's important that the Blue Oval automaker get it right with the soon-to-arrive 2013 Escape.

According to Ford's own statistics, the Escape and its ilk are exactly the type of conveyance that many folks are contemplating for their next vehicle purchase.

Accordingly, the new Escape presents a clean-sheet design-and-content approach to satisfy the needs of multi-continent customers (it's called the Kuga in Europe and elsewhere).

The sleeker look is radically different from the outgoing Escape's boxiness, which would otherwise mean a reduction in interior room. But with slightly larger dimensions overall, including an extra seven centimetres between the front and rear wheels, the result is greater rear-seat room plus slightly more passenger and cargo volume with the back seat in place or folded flat.

The Escape's "world-car" approach should play well in North America where most vehicles in its class look more like tall passenger cars.

Given the highly competitive small utility category with the likes of the Hyundai Tucson, Mazda CX-5 and Kia Sportage, the Escape's advanced mechanicals and handsome looks should keep it relevant for at least another dozen years.

And with a $23,000 base price, it's new style and technology that's affordable.

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

Go fetch it

Here's an item that all pickup-truck owners — or owners of full-size sport utility vehicles for that matter — should keep with them at all times. Having the lightweight aluminum EZ-Retriever II from Agri-Cover Inc. on hand allows you to reach those items that, whether intentionally or not, are positioned at the far end of the bed. Instead of climbing into the box (made all the worse if you have a tonneau cover), the 150-centimetre-long extendible device allows you to snag those hard-to-reach items and drag them to the gate. And by reversing the process, you can push loads to the back of the bed from the tailgate. Pick one up for $20 US from ezretriever2.com. WHEELBASE

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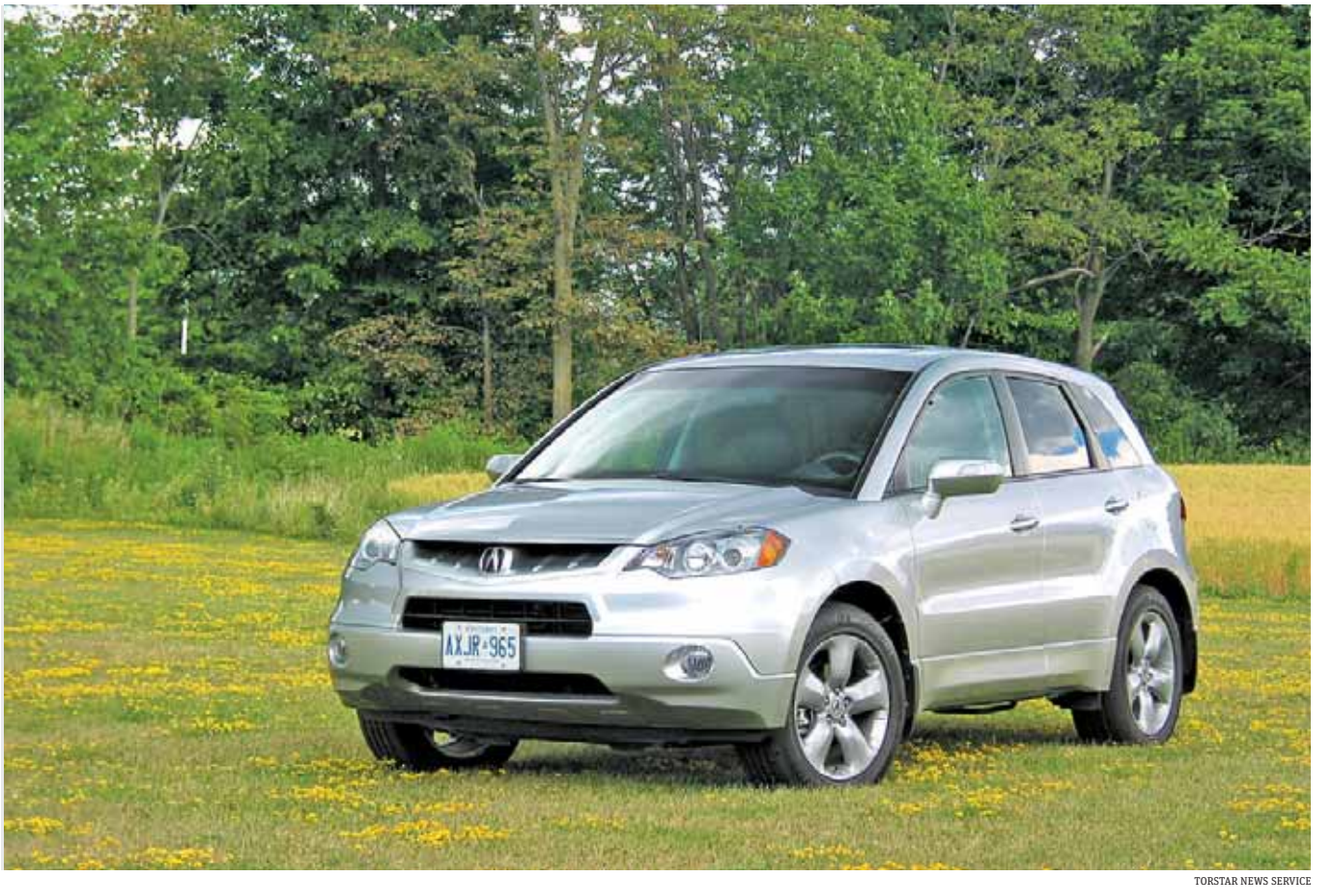
Last-gen RDX was flexible, fun to drive

Second Gear.
2007 to 2012
Acura RDX

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

Sporty, agile and packing Acura's patented SH-AWD system, the RDX was a premium compact crossover sport ute that was heavy on the "sport." Competing with the Audi Q5, Infiniti EX and others, the RDX boasted five-passenger seating, a flexible cabin and a laundry-list of must-have gadgets.

With suspension and chassis calibrations intended for driving pleasure over all-out comfort, the RDX was a machine that intended to connect with the enthusiast.



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Common Issues

The RDX should be inspected for signs of leakage from the transmission, torque converter seal and rear differential.

Since the RDX is equipped with a turbocharger, shoppers are advised to check for any signs of smoke, either at start-up or after a drive. This could indicate that the turbocharger is wearing out. Note that this component may be pricey to replace, but should last the life of the vehicle if frequent oil changes are carried out. Note that any transmission-related issues with jerkiness, rough shifting or "slippage" could be caused by a poorly-charged battery or bad sensor. If you note any issues with gear shifting, be sure to have the transmission and associated electronics inspected by a mechanic.

Engine

All models got a 2.3-litre VTEC Turbo four-cylinder engine producing 240 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft of torque. A paddle-shiftable five-speed automatic was standard.

What Owners Like

Performance, handling, style and overall value were highly rated by Acura RDX owners.

Flexible, all-season utility and confident traction in virtually every situation were also noted.

What Owners Dislike

Small rear seats, fuel mileage and a rough ride on some surfaces were the most common complaints of the RDX.

Verdict

The RDX looks like a fairly reliable used crossover buy that should readily impress active, family-minded driving enthusiasts. A dealer-serviced model with a mechanical thumbs-up is your safest bet.

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Airless tires could help to take the pressure out of driving

Driving Force. Not just a 'pie-in-the-sky' idea — Bridgestone wants to make tire commercially viable

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Tire talk

- Concept airless tires that have been presented to the public include the Michelin Tweel, and a military tire developed by Resilient Technologies of Wisconsin.
- Currently-available run-flat tires will work even when they've lost all their air, but only for short distances to get you to a shop for repair.

Your vehicle isn't just riding on its tires — it's also riding on the cushion of air that's inside them. A tire that has lost all of its air won't get you anywhere, and even one that's only lost some of its air pressure can affect your vehicle's handling and fuel economy.

Although none are on the market yet, several companies are working on tires that don't need any air at all, including Bridgestone.

"It's called the Non-Pneumatic Concept Tire," says Elizabeth Lewis, public relations coordinator for Bridgestone Americas.

"There's less maintenance to it, there's no risk of flat tires and there are major end-of-life possibilities."

The airless tire consists of a spoke structure made of thermoplastic resin, surrounded by a rubber tread. Everything in the tire can be recycled, and it can be retreaded numerous times with new rubber as needed before the entire tire has to be replaced.

Bridgestone has been working on the concept for three years, primarily in Japan, and in smaller, lower-speed applications such as electric golf carts.

"Instead of starting big, they started small, figuring out the major issues and then growing it with the idea of it being a commercially viable tire," Lewis says. "This isn't just pie-in-the-sky. Their eyes are on the vehicles we drive today, and they're looking for a more environmentally-friendly alternative to conventional tires."

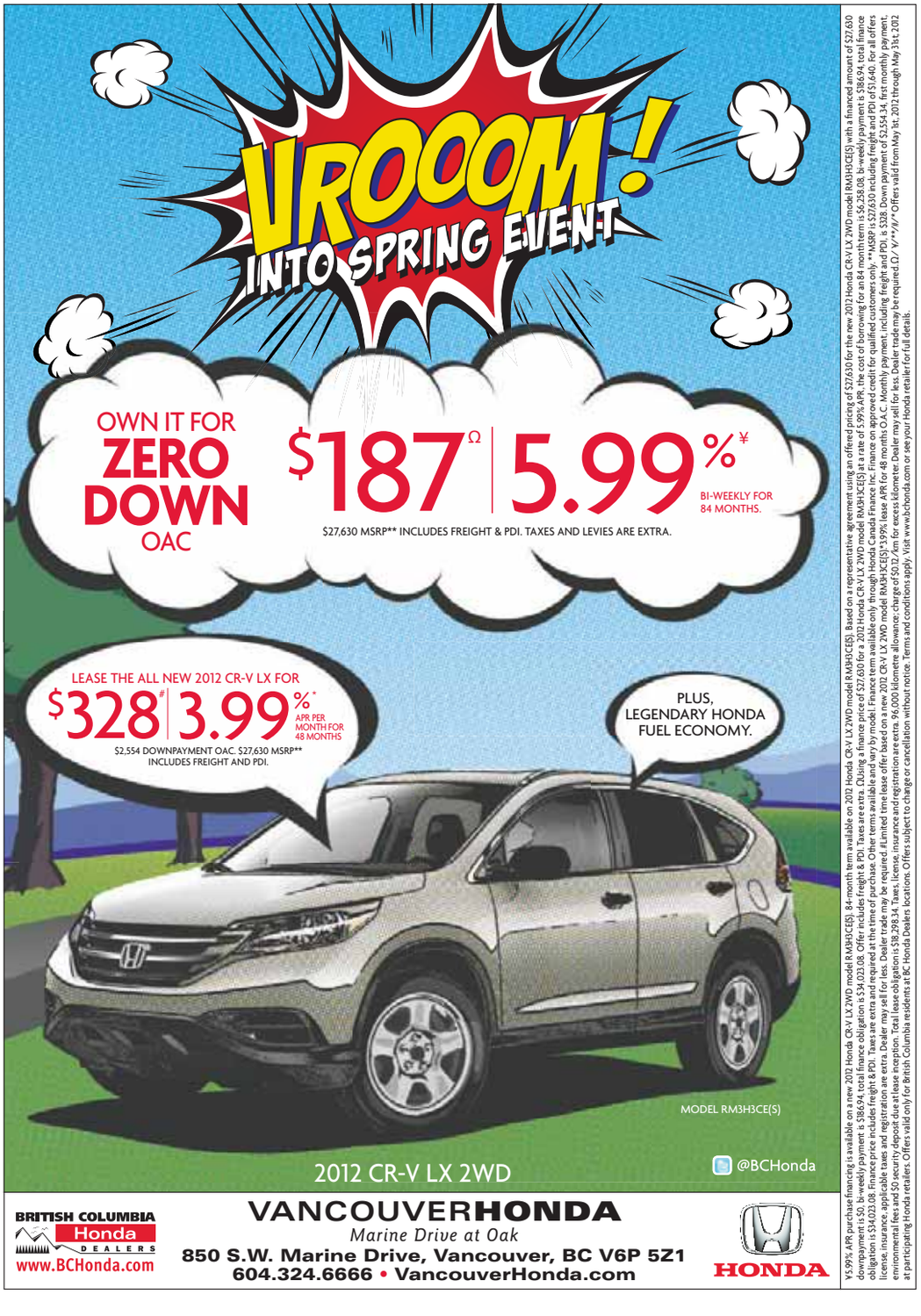
There are numerous issues that must be resolved before you'll be actually able to put a set on your car. At higher speeds, some airless tires tend to vibrate and make a lot of noise, although Lewis says that this design hasn't presented that problem.

However, the company still has to deal with concerns related to high-speed handling, long-term durability and performance in extreme temperatures. A marketable design will need to include something to prevent foreign objects from jamming into the spokes, and new manufacturing techniques and equipment will have to be developed for mass production.

Despite the difficulties that must be overcome, Bridgestone will continue to develop the airless tire as part of its commitment to environmental issues, Lewis says.

"It's more than just 'let's make a neat wheel that creates some buzz.' We're trying to improve our company and the products that we produce in the future."

Bridgestone still needs to work out several kinks before this tire hits the market. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO



¥5.99% APR purchase financing is available on a new 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD model RM3H3CE(S). 84-month term available on 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD model RM3H3CE(S). Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $27,630 for the new 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD model RM3H3CE(S) with a financed amount of $27,630 downpayment is $0, bi-weekly payment is $186.94, total finance obligation is $34,023.08. Offer includes freight & PDI. Taxes are extra. ΩUsing a finance price of $27,630 for a 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD model RM3H3CE(S) at a rate of 5.99% APR, the cost of borrowing for an 84 month term is $6,258.08. bi-weekly payment is $186.94; total finance obligation is $34,023.08. Finance price includes freight & PDI. Taxes are extra and required at the time of purchase. Other terms available and vary by model. Finance term available only through Honda Canada Finance Inc. Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. **MSRP is $27,630 including freight and PDI of $1,640. For all offers license, insurance, applicable taxes and registration are extra. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer trade may be required. #Limited time lease offer based on a new 2012 CR-V LX 2WD model RM3H3CE(S)*1.99% lease APR for 48 months O.A.C. Monthly payment, including freight and PDI, is $328. Down payment of $2,554.34, first monthly payment, environmental fees and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $18,298.34. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometer. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer trade may be required. Ω ¥ #*Offers valid from May 1st, 2012 through May 31st, 2012 at participating Honda retailers. Offers valid only for British Columbia residents at BC Honda Dealers locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.bchonda.com or see your Honda retailer for full details.

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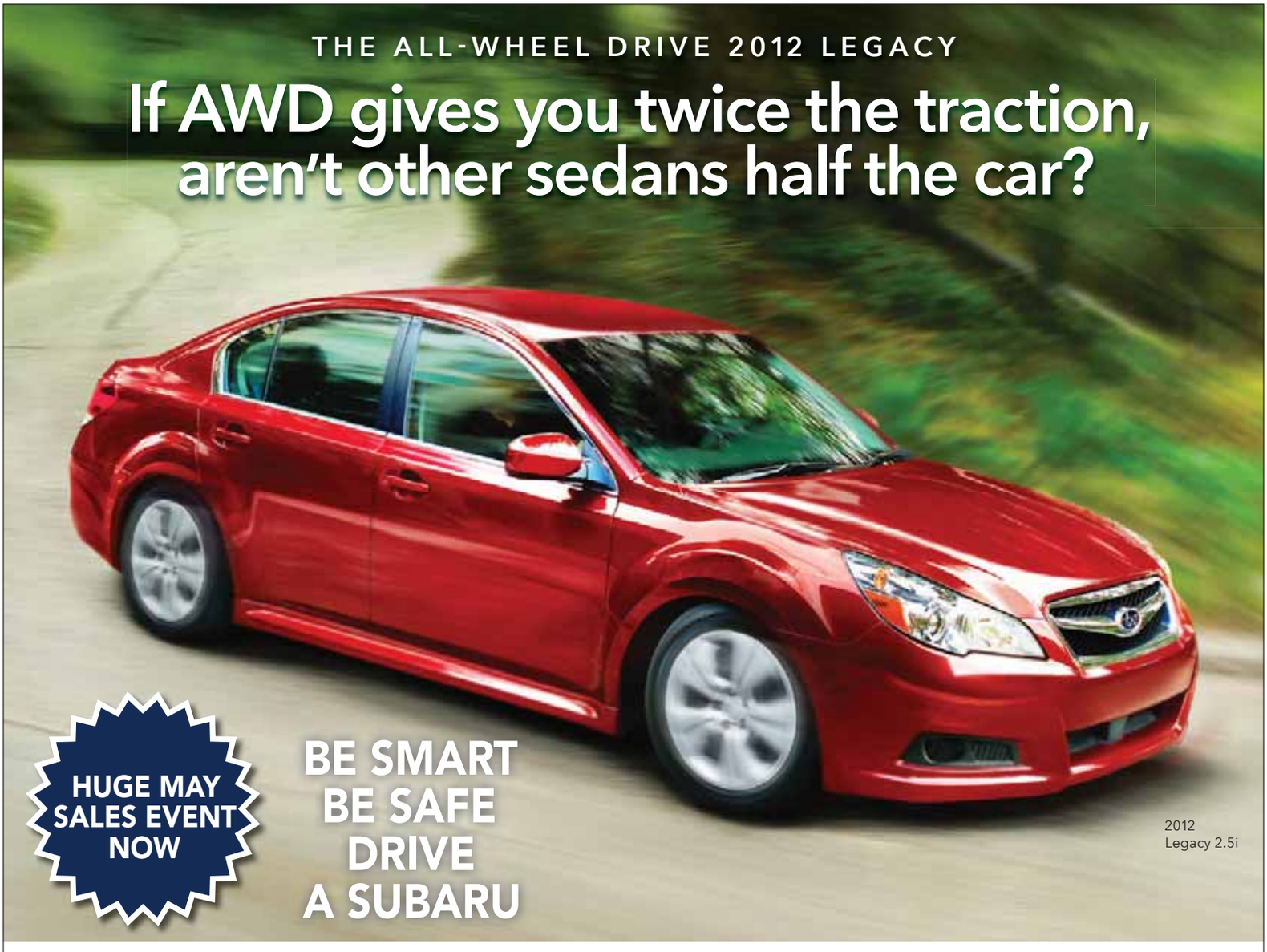

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2012 RESIDUAL VALUE AWARD alg ALG AWARD WINNER

ALG - Residual Value Award. Best mainstream brand♦

*Model shown is a 2012 Legacy 2.5i 6MT (CA1 BP) with MSRP of $26,105 including freight & PDI ($1,595), documentation fees ($395) and air and tire levies ($120). License, taxes, insurance and registration extra. **0.5% finance and lease rates available on all new 2012 Legacy models for a 24-month term. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. Dealers may sell for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. **Offer valid until May 31, 2012. ▲Ratings of "Good" are the highest rating awarded for 40-mph frontal offset, 31-mph side-impact and 20-mph rear-impact crash tests conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). A "Good" rating obtained in all three crash tests plus a "Good" rating in new roof strength testing and the availability of Electronic Stability Control (ESC) (Vehicle Dynamics Control) achieves a 2012 Top Safety Pick. ♦Based on ALG's 2012 Residual Value Award for any mainstream brand. †$2,000 cash incentive is for cash customers only and is available on all new 2012 Legacy models. Additional cash incentive offers are available on select new Subaru models.

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Even drivers can do a little daily good

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

While at a stoplight, have you ever randomly smiled and waved at the person in the car next to you? It's considered a good deed. ISTOCK

The People for Good movement, or at least its ad campaign, has been around for a year or so now. You must have seen the ads, extolling you to do such good deeds as "Offer your seat to a stranger," "Smile for no reason," or (my favourite) "Give your fellow driver five fingers — wave."

I think it's a great idea for a movement, and some of the video ads are hilarious, especially the one where a guy named Steve gives up his subway seat to a very pregnant woman. She is so thankful, she says she will name her new daughter Steve. "Or Emily," she says finally.

But I wonder how much impact it is having on the driving community. I couldn't say I've noticed any appreciable uptick in driving civility over the last year. I'm still waiting for just one cabbie to let me in a lane like they routinely expect me to let them in, still waiting for three or four cars to run a yellow before I can make my left turn at a light, still waiting for the Chrysler Lebron doing 90 km/h to get out of the passing lane so I can, well, pass.

But maybe it will eventually gain traction through attrition and through the good it makes the "giver" feel, regardless of whether his or her acts are reciprocated. I know I always feel good when someone gives me a small wave to acknowledge that I let them into a lane.

Letting someone into a lane is my most frequent good-deed driving act. I thought I should stretch out a bit with the goodness, so I perused the Good Ideas section of the People for Good website (peopleforgood.ca).

I didn't get through all the 1,000-plus posted suggestions, because, well, it was too depressing to read all the good things I'm not doing presently. Although I should mention I do this one: "Pick up dog poo that is not from your dog."

I do that because the poo is on my lawn.

Most of the car suggestions are stuff you should already be doing, like allowing people to merge, offering rides, giving pedestrians the benefit of the doubt, etc. But there are novel ones as well, such as giving up a prime parking spot, and buying a coffee for the person behind you in the drive-through.

I also like the one about leaving a parking slip with some time left on it by the ticket machine for the next person to use. But I might be partial to it not because it's good, but because it's more about sticking it to the Man — another worthy cause.

Some of the others are bit quirkier.

"At a stoplight, spontaneously smile and wave at the next person in the car next to you."

I've made up my mind to try a few of the suggestions on the list, automotive and otherwise — but not that one.

People for Good movement

Suggested Good Ideas, Driving Division:

- Give up a prime parking spot.
- Stop to let someone cross the street.
- Let people know when their taillights are out.
- Drive an elderly person home with their groceries.
- Buy a coffee for the person behind you in the drive-through.

CASH INCENTIVES
$2,000† on select models
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24 mos., as low as
0.5%**
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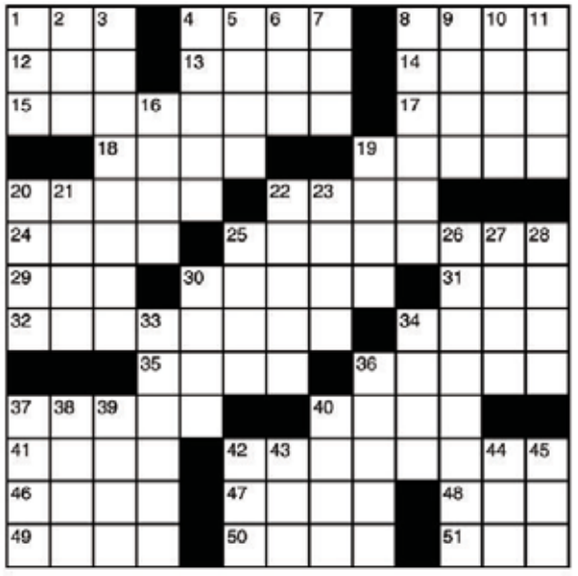
Crossword

Across

1 Computer acronym
4 Roe provider
8 Admitting air
12 Lawyers' org.
13 Lyricist's subject
14 Humdinger
15 Hat maker
17 Handle
18 Pack of cards
19 Zoo structures
20 Enthusiast, and then some
22 Centrifuge insert
24 Protuberance
25 Easy chair
29 Work with
30 Spot on TV?
31 Commotion
32 "Ich bin ein —"
34 Goblet feature
35 Coop collection
36 Down East
37 Toes' woes
40 Picasso contemporary
41 Settled down
42 Youngman joke
46 Stereo set
47 Jack Benny interjection
48 Shock partner
49 Yule refrain
50 Oodles
51 Guided

Down

1 Aries
2 Sapporo sash
3 Seasickness
4 Glossy
5 Gridlock noise
6 "Hail, Caesar!"
7 Aachen article
8 Acid neutralizer
9 Freud cohort
10 Shaving-cream additive
11 Abrades
16 Bound
19 Ump's announcement
20 Blooper
21 Stratagem
22 Irritates
23 Torte topper
25 Pugilists' arena
26 Countrywide
27 Paradise
28 Appian Way terminus
30 Pen pals?
33 Soup legume
34 Rani's garment
36 Factories
37 Songwriter Sammy
38 Medley
39 Abundant
40 Dissolve
42 Pussycat's partner
43 Ultra-modernist
44 Mate of 1-Down
45 Roulette bet



Sudoku

3			1		2			7
	6		3		7		9	
		7				8		
		3	6		5	1		
7								9
		2	4		9	5		
		5				3		
	7		5		6		4	
9			2		8			1

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	4	6	5	7	9	2	3
7	5	9	3	2	4	1	8	6
3	6	2	1	8	9	5	7	4
5	9	8	7	3	2	6	4	1
4	3	6	9	1	8	7	5	2
1	2	7	5	4	6	8	3	9
6	4	1	2	7	5	3	9	8
2	7	3	8	9	1	4	6	5
9	8	5	4	6	3	2	1	7

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

ZP RPPWXZMRXQ GWMWT, R RGZKRPQ AWL'J PQQJ K TQZM QPKRPQ-LRMA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE MY FATHER REALLY LOVES LICKING ENVELOPES, PEOPLE OFTEN LIKE TO CALL HIM A SEALING FAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals N

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

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Thursday 16°/9° Sunny
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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. No matter how big the challenge, you will emerge victorious.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Whatever you turn your hand to today will work out better than you expected.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Someone who does not want to see you succeed will try to talk you out of attempting something that could boost your reputation. Don't let them.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. This is going to be a busy day for you – you will be rushing here, there and everywhere trying to get it all done. Set yourself a time deadline.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. You may have to get tough with someone who has let you down, but don't go too far and say things that might make it difficult for you to work together in future.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You will pull out all the stops to be the biggest and the best at what you do.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You can move either this way or that way today. But it has to be one or the other.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. A task you have to complete will be easier than you expected.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You won't lack for advice today – everyone wants to tell you what you should be doing – but if you are smart you will ignore it all and listen only to your own inner voice.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Pluto in your sign is energized by Mars today, which means you can't lose.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Some people will be shocked by how far you are prepared to go to get what you desire over the next 24 hours, but they shouldn't be.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Don't sit at home watching the world through your window or, worse, your television screen.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"I wish mom would stop with the Princess Leia fantasy."
John

LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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GLS model shown

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HIGHWAY 4.9L/100 KM 58 MPG▼

GLS model shown

2012 ELANTRA TOURING GL

BONUS 7 YEAR WARRANTY 120,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY

INCLUDES: • Air Conditioning with Glove Box Cooler • Heated Front Seats & Mirrors • 6 Airbags w/ Front Active Head Restraints • Cruise Control • Remote Keyless Entry • Power Windows, Doors, Locks & Mirrors

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SELLING PRICE: $19,694* ELANTRA TOURING GL 5-SPEED. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

HIGHWAY 6.4L/100 KM 44 MPG▼

OWN IT $134† BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH 0% FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS | SAVE 20¢/L UNTIL 2013[2] | AND $0 DOWN PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE: $24,264* SONATA GL 6-SPEED. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

HIGHWAY 5.7L/100 KM 50 MPG▼

2012 SONATA

Most fuel-efficient full-size car▲

Limited model shown

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SELLING PRICE: $21,759* TUCSON L 5-SPEED. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

HIGHWAY 7.4L/100 KM 38 MPG▼

2012 TUCSON

A stylish cross-over utility vehicle

Limited model shown

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and SAVE 40¢/L UNTIL 2013[2]

2012 SANTA FE

Powerful & efficient – the true definition of a cross-over

HIGHWAY 7.7L/100 KM 37 MPG▼

Limited model shown

5 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY

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